

## HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

### Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Thursday 18 November 2021

QEHS Conference Room

**In attendance:** David Hartland (DH, Chair), Sarah Kemp (SKe, Vice Chair), Veryan Johnston (VJ), Kate Chaplin (KC), Tony Brown (TB), Patrick Ferguson (PF), Johnathan Holmes (JH - via Teams), Graeme Atkins (GA, Executive Headteacher – via Teams)

**Also attending:** Neil Seaton (NS, HoS QE), Liam Watters (LW, HoS HMS), Sarah Sparke (CFO), Charlotte Gaines (Clerk)

#### Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

##### 1) Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Barbara Hignett.

##### 2) Declaration of pecuniary, business or personal interests

DH reminded trustees to provide an update to their declarations of interests to CG for the annual review.

All

##### 3) Minutes of meetings

The Minutes of the following meeting, having been circulated to trustees, were adopted as a true record.

- a) Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 20 October 2021 – Part 1

##### 4) Matters arising

SKe asked if additional support had been sourced for those involved in ongoing new build activity. GA confirmed that it had.

DH advised that efforts to recruit a replacement for Kim Cowie were continuing, including through Inspiring Governance.

The scheme of delegation has been updated on the website.

Some trustees advised that they had difficulty accessing the safeguarding training video. CG to check and recirculate.

CG

##### 5) Head of School updates

###### a) QEHS

NS advised on issues with staffing in Economics and on contingency arrangements being implemented.

The LRC and hockey pitch have finally been handed over and are being used by students.

NS advised that the first set of mock examinations had recently taken place. Contingency planning relating to summer grades in accordance with the recently issued government guidance is in hand.

Daily tracking of Covid cases has shown a reduction in recent weeks following the reintroduction of some control measures, in accordance with local health advice.

Senior leaders have met with two headteachers who have undergone recent Ofsted inspections, to gain an insight into the experience. Thanks go to Andy Byers (Framwellgate) and Jane Kennedy (Corbridge Middle).

Recent fundraising collections have included Children in Need and the Newcastle refugee service.

Student engagement with lunch and after-school clubs and drop-ins has been positive. Educational visits abroad are being planned, mindful of the developing situation with Covid. The annual production has had to be cancelled but planning is underway to resurrect it for next academic year.

Quality of Education reviews are taking place across both QEHS and HMS, with findings to be considered in due course at the monitoring committees.

#### **b) HMS**

LW reported on a busy term and summarised some key recent and pending calendar events.

Covid cases remain very low among the pupil body and no staff are currently affected.

Baseline assessments have been conducted with the data now being analysed, which will be considered by the monitoring committee. A comprehensive intervention programme is being implemented and the impacts are being reviewed. The disadvantaged pupil action group has restarted with the mentoring scheme being relaunched. A review of SEND provision is underway.

Extra-curricular provision is going well with a varied programme and high levels of participation.

Volunteer counsellors are being recruited across both schools.

Quality of Education reviews are underway.

LW now chairs the Hexham Partnership of schools, with meetings pending to look at curriculum planning across years 3-6.

#### **6) New build**

GA provided an update to the Board on activity relating to the new buildings and facilities since the last meeting. There is a mixed picture of progress. Positive developments include the hockey pitch, LRC, basketball hoops and external CCTV, lighting and signage, with good progress being reported on Phase 2 works. Frustrations continue and include ongoing issues with heating and ventilation, tarmacking, alarms, DT, science and the theatre. Some progress has been made with snagging but there is a good deal that remains outstanding. GA, SS and Eleanor Simpson are meeting weekly with the contractors, the technical advisers and NCC regarding progress, on top of day-to-day interactions about more urgent matters.

#### **7) Stakeholder engagement**

GA advised that a cordial and constructive meeting had taken place recently with the Hydro Neighbourhood Group, with a follow-up planned for the end of the month.

Dave Todd and Richard Zabrocki are continuing to liaise with Active Travel Tynedale regarding lobbying for better pedestrian health and safety measures in the vicinity of the school. NCC Highways are reportedly waiting until completion of Phase 2 of the project before reviewing arrangements. In the meantime, senior leaders will continue to have a high profile presence at the start and end of each day.

The HMS Parent Teacher Association remains an active supporter of the school, and consideration is being given to a possible joint PTA with QE.

#### **8) Urgent business with agreement of Chair**

GA advised trustees that a review of CG's responsibilities highlighted the need to decouple the PA/Clerk role from that of Office Manager. As a consequence, an advertisement has been placed for a PA/Clerk. GA and the Board thanked CG for her commitment and willingness to go 'above and beyond' across the roles to date, particularly over what had been a demanding past year.

#### **Close and confirm date of next meeting**

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The date of the next Part 1 meeting is 16 December 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.