

**LYDGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD  
HELD ON 14 MARCH 2019**

Present: Maureen Neill (Chair of Governors); Jeremy Bannister;  
Julie Farrell; Rosemary Fletcher; John Hague; Simon Hamilton;  
Jacqui Hoole; Stuart Jones (Headteacher); Marelize Joubert;  
Dan Kirkland; David Kyffin; Alix Wall.

Associates:

In Attendance: Julie Child Clerk to governors

Governors' core responsibilities:

1. ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
2. holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The Chair welcomed Dr Marelize Joubert to the Governing Board as a Co-opted Governor.

**1. To accept or receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mark Alexander, Chris Batchelor and Carina Kemp.

**2. Declaration of any pecuniary interest relevant to this agenda.**

None were declared.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and report on matters arising from the minutes.**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2018 be approved and signed, subject to the following changes under item 4:

4.3 – should read “significant increase in late arrivals” – and not decrease as recorded.

**ACTION**

..... Chairperson  
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7 – should read “Reference to the Annual Safeguarding Report...”

**Matters arising from the Minutes that are not covered on tonight’s Agenda:**

There were no matters arising that are not covered on tonight’s Agenda.

**4. Headteacher’s Report**

Governors had received the Headteacher’s Report prior to the meeting for their scrutiny and the Headteacher expanded on particular items, responding to governors’ questions.

**4.1 School Context**

The Headteacher reported that the school is thriving and continues to be over-subscribed.

The Headteacher informed Governors the school has been categorised as ‘Green’ by the Local Authority and outlined the process undertaken to reach this decision.

**4.2 Budget**

The Headteacher outlined the current position with the budget, saying a positive outturn is expected to carry forward to next financial year.

Governors discussed financial restraint and the Headteacher said budgetary constraints and austerity does appear to be having an impact on pupil progress, explaining why this is.

A Governor asked what the impact is if the school takes extra pupils and the Headteacher responded, explaining how taking extra children affects the viability of other schools. Governors discussed the effect of going over number and in particular the added pressure this puts on staff.

The Headteacher said the full implementation of the National Funding formula has been delayed and softened in its introduction with the result that there will be an increase in the per pupil funding for 2019-20. The Headteacher informed Governors that secondary schools will however continue to receive more funding per pupil.

### **4.3 Peer Review Partnership**

The Headteacher updated Governors on the work being done within the S10 Partnership schools. A Governor asked why the school works with this limited group and the Headteacher explained the geographical size and high number of schools within Locality F makes working across the locality less productive than working as part of a smaller group of schools. The Headteacher went on to detail the outreach work staff are doing across the S10 Partnership and said how this leads to a better informed staff body.

### **4.4 School Website**

Governors discussed the information the Headteacher had provided on visits to the website and the additional workload for staff of keeping the content new and accurate judged against the value to the parent body.

Governors were aware of what has to be on the website for the school to be compliant and recognised the more dynamic content, such as the year group blogs, is what takes time and effort on a weekly basis for staff and questioned whether the benefit is worth the cost?

Following a lengthy discussion Governors asked the Headteacher to take this matter to the Senior Leadership Team to consider and decide on the best way forward with the year group blogs and implement the agreed option.

Headteacher

Governors asked the Headteacher to inform them of the outcome at the next meeting.

### **4.5 Healthy Pupil Capital Funding**

The Headteacher said the school is to receive a one-off grant, through increased capital income, and this will amount to £4,115.

The Headteacher said he has challenged the PE specialist to come up with a scheme to improve the engagement and physical activity of children who are not currently active and involved.

A Governor asked if other schools have not already looked at this problem and can school not benefit from what has been learnt elsewhere? Governors went on to ask whether school has considered using the money to purchase resources to support mental health and discussed the need to build resilience in the children.

The Headteacher said this is another area where financial cuts have

had an impact as the number of pastoral staff has halved over the last 5 years.

Governors said they would like to see this funding focused on mental health and asked the Headteacher to keep them updated with how the funding is used.

#### **4.6 Exclusions**

The Headteacher reported there have been no fixed term or permanent exclusions since the last meeting of the Full Governing Board.

#### **4.7 Complaints**

The Headteacher reported there have been no formal written complaints since the last meeting.

#### **4.8 Trips**

Governors congratulated school on the improved uptake of the Edale Trip for Year 6 this year and noted 114 of 121 children will be taking part. The Headteacher outlined the actions taken to address particular concerns of families in order to enable all to take part.

Governors thanked the Headteacher for his Report.

### **5. Committee minutes and reports from governors with curriculum links**

Governors confirmed they had received all Committee Minutes. No reports were discussed at this meeting.

### **6. To approve the Safeguarding Children Policy**

Governors had been provided with a copy of the Policy prior to the meeting for their scrutiny and the Headteacher confirmed there have been no changes to the content of the Policy.

Governors approved the Policy.

### **7. To review progress on the School Development Plan**

Governors had received a copy of the Plan prior to the meeting, traffic light colour coded to indicate areas requiring further input.

Governors discussed the progress of children with SEND against their peer group and the Headteacher said school continues to work on

closing the gap.

The Headteacher confirmed the school has been working on tightening up on some of its recording systems as this had been highlighted as an issue at the last Ofsted Inspection.

**8. Equality Statement**

Governors had received a copy of the Equality Statement prior to the meeting and no matters were raised.

Governors approved the Equality Statement.

**9. Review of the meeting – how has the governing body fulfilled the three core functions for which it is responsible?**

The Chair of Governors said she was confident that the meeting has addressed its core responsibilities and Governors concurred with her view.

**10. Any other urgent business**

A Governor asked if the school are supporting the pupil strike to highlight climate change issues on Friday 15 March and the Headteacher responded by saying the pupils are very aware of the problems with climate change and will look to support the pupils in whatever way he can should they express a wish to take part in the strike.

Governors discussed the need to conduct a Parent Survey and Dan Kirkland said he will support with setting this up. It was agreed to include a link to the survey for parents in the emailed Newsletter and the Headteacher confirmed alternative arrangements are in place for families who are not able to access the internet.

The Chair reminded Governors of the proposed joint training session on the new Ofsted Framework with the governors from Lydgate Infant School and said this will be offered through Learn Sheffield following the publication of the new Framework in the summer term.

**11. Date and time of the next meeting**

**The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm. on 11 July 2019**

**The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.**

Dan  
Kirkland

