

LYDGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
HELD ON 10th MARCH 2022 at 1900**

Present: Parents: Simon Hamilton (Chairperson); Ruth Tully; Co-opted: Julie Farrell; Mark Alexander; Rosemary Fletcher; Headteacher: Stuart Jones; Staff: Alix Wall

In Attendance: David Smith (Clerk to the Governors)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Marelize Joubert, Andrew Hogg, Maureen Neill, and Toyin Aderiye, these were accepted by the Chair.

2. Declaration of pecuniary interests relevant to this agenda

Governors were asked to declare any pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda. There were no pecuniary interests declared.

3. Approve the renewal of Simon Hamilton's Governor role

The Governors formally approved Simon Hamilton's extension of his term of office until March 2026 and his position as Chair of Governors.

4. 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 11 November 2021 be approved and signed.

Matters arising

Page 1 – JF did distribute the outcomes of the parental consultation and a video.

Page 2 note 5 – SH and RT met to discuss new governor recruitment and three SHU employees were to be approached.

Page 3 – note 8 should read 'The first of the curriculum presentations 'were' delivered.'

Page 2 – note 7 – no progress on academisation as it was felt that this could be postponed to discuss with the new Headteacher. There was no rush to start the process and SW Chair of the Infant Governors agreed.

Page 3 - note 8 – curriculum presentations were continuing and Governors had been linked with a subject area as follows;

Rosemary Fletcher – Design Tech. and Science

Andy Hogg – Maths

ACTION

RT

Toyin Aderiye – English
Mark Alexander – History and Geography.
Ruth Tully – PE and Music
Marelize Joubert – MfL RRS and RE&HE
Simon Hamilton – SEND
Tom Finnemore – Safeguarding

All governors had been given a subject leader to contact regarding visits. It was decided that Governors should instigate the meeting with the staff

Page 5 – note 14 – Headteacher recruitment – SH updated the Governors that Rachael Herding had been appointed as the new Headteacher.

Discussions regarding the Headteacher pay point took place. SH said that he had taken advice from several sources and outlined the proposals. After discussions with all Governors present it was resolved that this would be at L19.

It was also decided that the Deputy Headteacher would be appointed on a temporary basis for a year, to give the new Headteacher time to review the staffing structure. Beth Noble had accepted the Deputy Headship on that basis. Discussion would need to take place regarding Beth Noble’s current position in the school. This would be updated at the next meeting.

SH and Headteacher to update on Beth Noble’s replacement

5. Conduct of the meetings in the coming year – whether to continue virtual attendance

The possibility of further face-to-face meetings was discussed. The Governors resolved that it was preferable to hold face to face meetings.

The meeting concluded that the next meeting would take place face to face and that some Governors may wish to join via Zoom.

6. Review of Governing Board membership and vacancies

It was noted that Parent Governor David Kyffin had resigned so this left vacancies for 2 Parent Governors and 3 Co-opted Governors.

The 3 Co-opted Governor positions had been discussed under item 4.

The Headteacher said that the advert for potential new Parent Governors would be circulated via the newsletter.

It was further noted that Maureen Neill’s term of office would terminate on 8th May 2022, before the next meeting. RF would contact MN to ascertain her intentions. Subsequent to the meeting RF informed the Chair that MN would like to continue and this was agreed.

Clerk to inform Learn Sheffield of the changes

7. Committee minutes and reports from governors

SH noted that the committee minutes would in future be available before the FGB meeting.

T&LP and Resources meetings had taken place and the minutes would be circulated by Lucy.

Reports from Governors.

AH had met with the subject leads in Maths – Julie Dutton and Billy Bradshaw.

Lucy to circulate committee minutes

He had produced a report and SH read out the main points.
 The subject Leads would discuss resource requirements at the next T&LP committee.
 TA had met with the English subject Leads and the report was to follow.

8. Headteacher's report

The Headteacher produced and circulated a comprehensive report prior to the meeting and spoke through the salient points of the report and invited questions.

CONTEXT - The Headteacher said that there had been an updated context data and this would inform OFSTED. The data showed how 'advantaged' the school was. The performance data from 2019 was very strong with many measures putting the school in the top 20% of all schools with the 2019 data the best ever. The Headteacher said that how well the current Year 6 cohort would do in comparison with the national average would depend as much on variance in that national figure as it would depend on how the pandemic has affected the school. The current Y6 had 165 intervention slots for 122 pupils in an effort to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, but there were no external benchmarks to work with other than historical measures.

PUPIL ATTENDANCE.

3% ahead of the national average and getting back to normal levels.
 Punctuality was more of an issue. The Governors discussed the reasons behind the punctuality issue and the Headteacher suggested that the school was moving to getting lessons going as soon as possible, rather than easing the pupils into class, which was a feature of the pandemic starts. It was hoped that this would improve punctuality.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

There was a requirement that all accidents or assaults that lead to either lost time at work or direct attendance at A&E are reported to the local authority H&S section. Two such incidents had been reported this term.

If the LA team has any questions or concerns, they do make contact with school. As none has been made, we can assume that the risk assessment, control measures, review and response were judged at least satisfactory. Learning was made from each incident.

BEHAVIOUR.

The Headteacher detailed the suspension that had occurred this term and noted that the school would be spending around £2000 for support services regarding this child.

SAFEGUARDING

The Headteacher noted the training that had been completed and detailed in the report. Site security regarding having sufficient ventilation was discussed but it was concluded that this was not a major concern.

GENDER GAP IN WRITING

The Headteacher highlighted that this was a continuing issue in the school and shared some data with the Governors.

JF asked if the school was marking too harshly?

The Headteacher replied that it might well be the case as external moderation with partner schools had not taken place due to the pandemic, but these were

hopefully starting up again, and this would give a better picture. It was maybe that the school's expectations were too high? But also, it did not help that 4 teachers in Y6 had not done any end of KS3 writing assessments before and no external moderation.

SH commented on a visit he had made where the standard of writing was very good and no obvious differences in girls and boys.

AW commented that writing is very subjective and staff erred on the side of caution

COST OF ACTIVITIES

The Headteacher noted that in the report it detailed the trips that had taken place and the costing.

The Governors discussed the nature of parental voluntary contributions in light of the impending cost of living rises.

SH suggested that further to the recommended contribution circulated to parents it might be an idea the also set up a 'hardship fund' so those that can contribute to this?

The Headteacher thought that this was a good idea.

RF asked if there were any Ukrainian or Russian children in the school?

The Headteacher said that there were 2 Russian speakers but there had been no problems with these pupils. Some pupils were showing signs of anxiety so the staff had been encouraging them to concentrate on being children and go and play.

9. Review of School Improvement Plan/Self Evaluation

This was a working document and the update had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Headteacher detailed some items and covered the headline targets.

- ✓ Redefine curriculum aims
- ✓ Develop student and volunteer impact and involvement
- ✓ Improve boys' writing
- ✓ Increase (targeted) physical activity
- ✓ Lead national and local averages for Year 4 Multiplication Check
- ✓ Lead more; manage less
- ✓ Enhance Safeguarding procedures
- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Supporting weaker learners
- ✓ Shared physical experiences
- ✓ Community

The subject leaders were continuing with the curriculum presentations at the T&LP meetings.

The Headteacher suggested that the physical activity is progressing especially at playtimes with greater involvement from girls.

The Safeguarding systems via CPOMs was working well with the greatest difficulty was the time to record.

In terms of inclusion the school was on track to a more diverse provision that better reflects the community of the school.

Volunteer placement was discussed with the school taking an active part with the University of Sheffield Psychology department to provide a number of volunteers on a year placement. It was important that the school also benefits from these placements and as such this initiative was hopefully going to add to the quality of the school. Interviews would be taking place in April.

10. Review of the meeting

The governors agreed that they had fulfilled the three core functions of responsibility

11. Review of Governor training opportunities

SH informed the Governors of a joint venture with the Infant school with training on 'OFSTED Inspection preparation'. This would take place on 21st April 2022 at 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Lydgate Junior School.

**SH to confirm
via email**

12. Any other urgent business

There was no further business

13. The date and time of the next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting be held on Thursday 7th JULY 2022 at 1900.

Meeting closed at 2050