

Minutes of the meeting of the full governing body held on Monday 11th July 2022 at 4.30pm.

**Present:**

Mrs N Galloway (Chair)  
Mrs H Benwell (Vice-Chair)  
Mrs J Vila  
Mr C Feeney  
Mr C McConnachie  
Mrs J Harvey  
Mrs A Preston  
Mrs M Collins  
Mr I Siddall (Headteacher)

**Also Present:**

Mrs E Wallace (Clerk to Governors)  
Mr M Pickles (Observer – Finance Director)  
Miss F Bate (Observer - Deputy Headteacher)

**Apologies:**

Apologies received and accepted for Mr C Jackson and Mr A Walker.

**Please note the Department for Education ‘urges governing boards to be pragmatic in what they cover in meetings during this time, and to be proportionate in the decisions that they are planning to take’. They expect governors to focus on ‘urgent, time-bound decisions’ and understand boards will want to ‘defer non urgent decisions/agenda items until future meetings’.**

**In addition, the National Governance Association (NGA) has advised paperwork be scaled back and verbal updates be provided wherever possible during this time.**

**2a. Governors declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2b. Terms of Office/Membership.**

Mr Pickles explained the members had re-appointed Mr Walker as a trust appointed governor for a 4 year term. Mr Lindsay’s term of office is due to end in September.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.**

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated be approved and signed by the vice-chair.

Mrs Benwell sent the document to the clerk for distribution.

Mrs Vila explained she had received no responses for the training and will look at this further in the new academic year.

Mr Siddall explained the white paper will be discussed further into the meeting, as well as trending graphs.

**4. Chair's Action and Update**

The Chair explained interviews had taken place, to be discussed in the Headteachers' Report.

**5. School Visit Feedback.**

The Chair had visited the Academy and received a tour from Mr Siddall, she discussed the calm atmosphere around the Academy and how well behaved students were. The Chair invited Governors to visit the academy.

**6. Budget**

The budget forecast for 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25 had been distributed to governors prior to the meeting.

Mr Pickles went through the forecasts outlining the assumptions that had been taken into account in formulating the budgets including the likely reserves at the start of the new academic year. The forecasts incorporated income / expenditure / pupil premium / recovery premium / capital funding and expenditure

Mr Pickles also outlined the key performance indicators at the end of the budget forecasts which linked to the benchmarking of our 'figures' against national expectations and other similar schools (DfE Self-Assessment Dashboard ratings). Areas had been colour coded to reflect where we were positioned against these ratings.

It was explained how intrinsically linked the budget was to the curriculum offer that the school had in place so as to meet the expectations of our parents and students in providing an offer that was broad and balanced and could meet the needs of every child. It was recognised that teacher costs were higher than we would like them to be but the capacity in evidence would be fully utilised in the support of student progress.

**A governor asked** as to what steps would need to be taken if the pay awards were higher than had been accounted for as well as other cost of living rises. Mr Pickles explained that steps would have to be taken to reduce expenditure which would have an impact on what we could deliver. Movement of staff would potentially be necessary and it would be hoped that this would occur as a matter of course through staff moving on to promoted positions etc. A worst case scenario would be that the school would have to look at staffing structures and instigate such movement. It was recognised that we were moving into more difficult times and so the school would have to be both pro-active and re-active as we moved forward in controlling expenditure and prioritising accordingly.

**Governors** thanked Mr Pickles for the detailed forecasts and explanations

**Governors** ratified the budget

**ACTION**

**7. Headteacher's Report.**

Mr Siddall explained trending graphs will be produced in September for Governors.

Mr Siddall

Mr Siddall explained that following the resignation of Mr Malone as Deputy Headteacher, interviews had taken place with regards to the revised SLT structure that had been agreed. This had been a successful process with the exception that the academy not been successful in appointing for the Curriculum post as had been advertised. He added the revised structure will be looked at again in March 2023, with the possibility remaining of an external member of staff being considered.

**A governor asked** if the members of staff who were not appointed were internal and if so how was this managed.

Mr Siddall explained the candidates were internal. There has been an agreed re-alignment of their responsibilities with the potential for progression if successful in their new roles; there is no ill feeling within the team.

Attendance is currently at 90.6% which is 2% above the national average. The standard tools that were successful pre 2022 are not working nationally. The biggest contributor to this is a small number of persistent absentees.

The Academy plan will be shared with Governors in the first week of the new Academic year.

Mr Siddall

**A governor asked** for structure of the staff body.

Mr Siddall explained this would be provided with reference to the new structure from September.

Mr Siddall

**8. Theme Input – Attendance.**

The Attendance report was distributed to Governors prior to the meeting.

Miss Bate explained the Academy fairs favourably in relation to national figures. There are core areas that need work (the minus 2.5% in Y10 is in relation to 12 students). The Academy is aware of the students who are in need of help. The top 35 persistent absentees have some form of agency involvement. From next year Lancashire have announced they will be offering help to schools in relation to attendance.

**A governor asked** for cohort sizes on the report moving forward.

Miss Bate agreed this could be provided.

**A governor asked** if the drop in attendance affected the GCSE attendance.

Miss Bate explained the attendance from the GCSEs was very good, with persistent absentees arriving to complete their GCSEs.

**9. The Education White Paper – Academies Programme**

Mr Siddall and Mrs Galloway had attended a meeting regarding the Education white paper.

Included in the white paper, it was stated all schools will become part of a Multi Academy Trust by 2030.

**A governor asked** if there were geographical restrictions.

Mrs Galloway explained the advice is that schools in the MAT should be within 45 minutes of each other.

**A governor explained** there are seven MATs currently in Blackpool.

**A governor asked** what the time frame is for a maintained school to become a trust.

Mr Siddall explained, Hodgson was a trust already. Firstly approval would need to be sought from the schools commissioner to change our status from Single Academy Trust to Multi Academy Trust. The time frame for a maintained school to join us depends on how long legal agreements take to finalise.

Mr Siddall outlined that discussions had started to take place amongst schools as to the impact of the white paper. He would keep governors informed as to progress with regards to these discussions and what the options available to the school would be.

Mr Siddall

**10. Educational Visits**

Having been circulated to governors prior to the meeting the educational visits were approved by the board.

**11. Governor Training.**

Mrs Vila explained she had received no responses for the training and will look at this further in the new academic year.

Mrs Vila

**12. Any Other Business.**

The Chair advised that the vacancy for the new parent governor will be arranged for the new academic year when there is a new cohort of parents.

**13. Confidentiality.**

There were items discussed in points 6 and 9 that were deemed to be of a confidential nature and minuted as such.

**14. Dates/times 2022/23 Meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 4.30pm

The governors agreed on the following dates for the board to meet in the new academic year

2022/2023:   Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
                  Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
                  Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
                  Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
                  Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
                  Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023