

Minutes of the meeting of the full governing body held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 4.30pm.

**Present:**

Mrs N Galloway (Chair)  
Mrs H Benwell  
Mr C Feeny  
Mrs J Harvey  
Mr I Lindsay  
Mrs A Preston  
Mr T Rimmer  
Mrs J Vila  
Mr A Walker  
Mr I Siddall (Headteacher)

**Also Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

No apologies received.

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.

**2. Election of Chair and Vice-chair**

It was agreed by governor votes that Mrs N Galloway be re-elected as Chair of Governors and Mrs H Benwell re-elected as Vice Chair of governors, both to serve until the first meeting in the Autumn term 2022.

**3a. Governors Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest regarding the Agenda items.

**b. Register of Interest**

There were no members who declared a register of interest.

**c. Governors Terms of Office**

The Chair proposed Mrs H Benwell be co-opted onto the board (as her term of office would shortly end as a parent governor). Mrs Benwell left the room while governors voted. The appointment was agreed. Two parent governor vacancies are now currently available, with literature to be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

**d. Governors Committee Membership**

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, committee memberships were agreed with the following amendment: Mr I Lindsay to be added to the pupil discipline committee.

**e. Code of Conduct/Attendance/Induction, Training and Development Policies – Annual Renewal**

The governing board approved the annual renewal of the Code of Conduct, Attendance, & Induction, Training and Development policies.

**f. Governor Committee Terms of Reference – Renewal**

The governing board approved the annual renewal of the committee terms of reference.

**Chair's Update and Actions**

Mrs Galloway discussed the interviews and successful appointments for Head of Transition and Assistant Head of Maths prior to the summer break.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, having been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. Year 11 Exam Results**

Prior to the meeting the exam result summary had been circulated to governors.

Mr Siddall started discussions explaining last year's students were awarded centre assessed grades with this year's students awarded teacher assessed grades. The attainment 8 figure had risen, whereby students on average were leaving Hodgson with a grade 5. Mr Siddall explained Hodgson had altered the curriculum starting next year resulting in most students studying a Modern Foreign Language. This will alter the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) results going forward. Mr Siddall continued discussing results explaining there had been a rise in Pupil Premium students gaining passes in 4 plus grades.

**A governor queried** if any students had appealed their grade(s)

Mr Siddall explained the appeals process and discussed that currently 14 students had submitted an appeal.

**A governor asked** for the time frame from submitting an appeal to obtaining the result.

Mr Siddall stated this is dependant upon the exam board, however, there had been some grades received, with the deadline for appeals 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**A governor questioned** the drop in German grades.

Mr Siddall discussed the ability profiles of students explaining these can vary, with last year containing a high ability cohort. Usually there is one language that achieves higher.

**6. Finance & Governance Update**

Prior to the meeting the Finance and Governance update had been circulated to Governors.

Mr Pickles started discussions explaining the close of accounts for 2020/21 had finished last week with the auditors booked in for October. Mr Pickles explained Hodgson had been fortunate enough to be successful with a further bid for funding from the Condition Improvement Fund, resulting in the majority of the Academy's heating now being in a position to be upgraded.

Mr Pickles explained a meeting was taking place tomorrow in relation to the catering contract, discussing menu and service provisions and he was expecting to have a final decision on the award of the catering contract shortly.

**A governor asked** if all windows open in the school.

Mr Pickles explained all classrooms and offices have opening windows, with restrictors on these to prevent opening too far. Mr Pickles added Carbon Dioxide monitors were due to be installed across classrooms in the coming weeks.

**A governor asked** how long the contract would be for the new catering company.

Mr Pickles stated this would be for 3 or 4 years.

#### **7. Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and Procedures – Renewal**

Miss Bate discussed changes to the document including some changes in terms. Having been circulated prior to the meeting, governors agreed the annual renewal of the safeguarding/child protection policy and procedures.

#### **8. Headteacher's Update – Verbal Report to include: Return to School September 2021**

##### **Educational Visits Update**

##### **Unavoidable School Closures**

Mr Siddall started discussions explaining there had been no school closures since the last meeting and none were planned for the future.

He continued, discussing educational visits and explained one Duke of Edinburgh visit previously cancelled due to hot weather, had been allowed to take place.

Mr Siddall discussed and explained that COVID risk assessments had been significantly altered and amended in line with government guidance and restrictions.

He explained the COVID testing using lateral flows, had taken place 3-5 days apart, resulting in only two year groups starting one day later than originally planned.

Contingency framework is in place for issues arising with COVID. Online learning is still available and will remain available to students who are required to self-isolate. The Academy is still offering laptops to families who require them when students are self-isolating, with all students fully aware of how to access online learning provisions.

Staff morale is good with no staff members working from home. Mr Siddall explained staff are identifying gaps in individual learning, with this becoming more rigorous after completing testing and data drops. Mr Siddall explained funding had been secured from Blackpool Council for looked after children to employ a learning mentor, which has been filled internally. Mr

Siddall explained some students in Y11 who are struggling, have had discussions and been allowed to drop an option and take up Statistics; this is to give them the same number of GCSEs but improve their mental health preventing unnecessary stress.

**A governor queried** whether there was an alternative to students taking Statistics.

Mr Siddall explained this was not forced upon students and they were given the option to remain in their chosen option subject.

**A governor questioned** the summer school provision offered to the new intake of year 7's.

Mr Siddall replied explaining the summer school had been a huge success, with the uptake including 180 Year 7's; with positive feedback from parents/carers. Mrs Garside ran the event with large numbers of staff volunteering.

**A governor asked** the cost of the summer school week.

Mr Pickles replied explaining the DfE largely funded the summer school, with the total cost being around £20,000, including staff costs and those of external companies providing support.

**Governors discussed** the final week of last year's Year 11 and congratulated with thanks, Mr Siddall and the staff at Hodgson for the impressive delivery of high quality end of year activities for Y11 leavers of 2020 and 2021, after a challenging 18 months. Mr Siddall discussed preliminary plans for a presentation evening to be held in November for last year's Year 11, with further detail to be released in coming weeks.

## 9. Academy Plan 2021/22

Mr Siddall started discussions explaining that the Academy plan was shaped around the roles and responsibilities of the Deputy Headteachers: Quality of Teaching, Curriculum and Achievement and Ethos, Culture, Conduct and Safeguarding. Underpinning these are standards and expectations

Mrs Khan discussed quality of teaching and improving 6 key areas: Questioning and Oracy Independent Learning, Assessment and Feedback, Classroom Routines and Relationships, Scaffolding and Teaching to the Top and Retrieval Practice. Mrs Khan explained improving these areas and teacher practice in these areas will allow students to leave with improved grades. She continued to explain staff had picked two out of the six areas to improve, through CPD. Mrs Khan discussed improving learning for SEND and disadvantaged students, starting with passports created by Mr Jenkinson (SENCo) These passports will allow staff to identify teaching and learning strategies to support these particular students. Improved CPD for staff and empowering staff to reflect on their learning. Mrs Khan explained department reviews will contain data analysis, to allow a targeted approach to identify concerns in specific departments. Mrs Khan continued, explaining students completed work in different subjects in their best handwriting to maintain standards, embedding a love of learning and pride in their work.

Mrs Khan discussed research undertaken in homework, stating sanctions for non-completion of homework will now be attendance to homework club, to assist students in their independent

learning and keep students engaged. Mr McCann has created a varied extra co-curricular programme, developing and nurturing students learning and engagement with Hodgson.

**A governor asked** if changes to the homework approach is based on research.

Mrs Khan explained research had shown sanctions regarding homework do not work. The Academy had taken the quality over quantity approach, to engage students in homework, with much research undertaken including Tom Sherrington's, Mode A Mode B approach.

**A governor queried** whether students had been asked what co-curricular clubs they would like to attend.

Mrs Khan explained this is an approach Mr McCann would like to take, with the option of the student leadership team to run some of the clubs.

**A governor asked** if Support staff had been included with CPD.

Mrs Khan explained Teaching Assistants and Pastoral staff had been included and also picked two strands to improve on.

**A governor questioned** which strand feedback and assessment would cover.

Mrs Khan explained this was formative assessment.

**A governor asked** if Tassomai was ongoing.

Mrs Khan explained Tassomai was used and alongside this, mode B homework to assist in students learning and encouraging independent learning.

Mr Malone discussed Curriculum and Achievement, he explained the focus is on development of the curriculum with the first objective ensuring intense implementation across the curriculum. He continued to explain, this includes the ethos of quality first teaching, with excellent planning, standards and expectations and OFSTED preparation and transparency, ensuring all departments and leaders understand the curriculum offer in different curriculum areas.

Mr Malone continued, discussing recognition of key themes by staff, including academically and knowledge rich planning. All students now access a modern foreign language for five years. Mr Malone explained Miss Aionesei is responsible for cohorts across the Academy including pupil premium students working with Miss Morton on assessments to monitor students closely. This will allow gaps in education, due to Covid, to be addressed. Mr Malone discussed literacy and explained Miss Buckley had successfully launched a Reg and Read programme and investment in the Library, promoting reading for Hodgson students. Professional development for staff will ensure consistency in learning over all departments, with a key focus on cohesion between departments with clear communication. This allows staff to work together to deliver a standard approach, allowing students to apply this approach across all subjects. Mr Malone discussed altering data collections, to be more targeted and impactful, without causing larger workloads for teaching staff.

**A governor asked** what disciplinary literacy meant.

Mr Malone explained this is different departments within school using the same approaches to improve reading, writing and communication, allowing students to use the same techniques in Science that they use in English.

**A governor queried** whether teacher delivery and consistency was being addressed.

Mr Malone explained disciplinary literacy was about giving students the ability to transfer skills learned in one lesson to all lessons.

**A governor questioned** whether this approach could become boring and tedious for students.

Mr Malone explained it allows more of a focus. It prevents different approaches from similar subjects being taught to students and causing confusion or stalling students learning.

Miss Bate discussed Ethos, Culture, Conduct and safeguarding, she explained safeguarding is not a singular point but a thread underpinning everything that is done on a day to day basis. Miss Bate discussed reducing fixed term exclusions and reducing the number of repeat offenders of inclusion, including developing behaviour strategies in and around school. She explained fixed term exclusions do not have a great impact and this is being addressed as to how this can be brought in house with different strategies, allowing students to understand where their behaviour has gone wrong. Teaching staff are being supported to develop their own techniques in dealing with behaviour, including addressing language as to not escalate situations, to try and reduce exclusion and inclusion numbers.

Miss Bate discussed reinvigorating PAUSE and CARE (Punctuality, Attendance, Uniform, Safe & Sensible Behaviour and Effort/Consideration And Respect for Everyone) bringing these more into assemblies and classrooms and instilling these words into the students.

Miss Bate discussed reducing persistent absentees, she explained this had suffered due to COVID although Hodgson are above the national average for attendance, she explained there are fears from families and this is now about gaining confidence and trust and working with them to ensure their children are coming to school.

Miss Bate continued, discussing increasing awareness and support around students with protected characteristics, she explained students have been online a lot over the last 18 months with online learning, with the Academy seeing some racist remarks and lack of understanding, which needs addressing with re-education.

Miss Bate discussed a diversity and equality audit throughout the Academy. Prior to the summer break, students completed a PASS test (Pupils Attitude to Self and School) this gave the academy a good understanding of where students have a poor attitude towards themselves, a poor attitude to their learning and those who are not particularly happy within the school community, this has allowed a detailed picture of areas where intervention needs to take place.

The PASS test will also be completed by the new intake of Year 7's. Miss Bate discussed developing strong leadership that promotes a positive ethos, culture and relationships that will support and empower both staff and students. She referred to the CPD discussed by Mrs Khan and stated that student leadership had disappeared during COVID due to cross bubbles etc and Mrs Foley is working with all year groups to empower leadership with this tying in with the Co-Curricular programme.

**A governor queried** whether Pets as Therapy dogs would be beneficial to some students.

Miss Bate replied, explaining this was something that had been discussed prior to Covid and is something that is being looked at.

**A governor asked** if the PASS tests is completed annually.

Miss Bate explained it is annual and will be completed again towards the end of the summer term to see whether interventions put in place have been successful.

**10. Confidentiality**

There were no items on the agenda deemed to be of a confidential nature.

**11. Date and time of next Meeting**

The next full governors meeting to be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 4.30pm.