

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - ONLINE ZOOM MEETING2nd February 2023 – 4.00pm**PRESENT**

Steph Donvaband	Clare Gaskell	Jackie Gladden	Harriet Michael-Phillips
Mike McGarry (Head)	Catherine Morris	Karen Owens	Jim Rimmer (Chair)
Collette Simms	Richard Snowdon		

ALSO PRESENT

Tom Dolly - SDHT	Gayle Phillips - DHT	Vicky Ashworth - AHT	Julie McGugan - AHT
Chris Tees - AHT	Andy Pritchard - RD	Judith Gordon - FM	Pauline Neilson (Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Sue Donnelly

22/35**WELCOME****ACTION**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

22/36**DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests in relation to the agenda.

22/37**TRUSTEE BOARD CHANGES – INFORMATION**

There had been no changes other than Ian Burton's appointment as a member following the last AGM.

22/38**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 8th DECEMBER 2022****Accuracy**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record with the following amendment:
 P7- KS5 data – Item 22-29 – Add – Some subjects at the time (E.g. Physics grade) and figures seemed lower than other subjects and there was a discussion around this.

22/39**MATTERS ARISING**

22-25 – Still to organise a session for Trustees on KPIs – possibly put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Put on 30/03/23
Agenda

22-27 – The documents have been sent to Companies House.

22-23 – Link reports – Trustees were encouraged to complete these before Easter, ready for the following term.

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

22-29 – information on next set of KPIs

22/40

MINUTES OF THE AGM – 8/11/22

The Minutes had been circulated for information and would be signed once approved by the members.

JG to circulate
Minutes

22/41

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Circulated For information. They contained details of the catering and cleaning contract. Trustees agreed to change the name of this committee to the Audit and Risk Committee.

22/42

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The report had been circulated and was taken as read with the following items highlighted:

Trips

40 children are currently on a trip to Berlin and 96 are going on PGL trip to Winmarleigh – MM thanked the staff leading these trips.

Yr. 11-12 and 9-10 – lots of ongoing work

Numbers

There have been 140 applications for 6th form so far which is looking positive. The figures in the budget were based on 100 in Y12; final figures will not be known until after the results in August.

Work has been taking place with Y11 students to prepare them for Sixth Form - thanks to the work of Gayle and the Sixth form team

The Inspection Data – summary report had been published and showed nothing unexpected:

- Progress – slightly above
- Attendance – within national norms
- Attendance at national level is ok but compared to other similar schools work is still needed.

This document will be a key piece of information during any OFSTED visit. Based on the report, the judgement would likely be good.

The current Y11 have had difficulties in Y10, but are now starting to settle. The issues were not so much with behaviour but engagement. There are currently eight students not in school and many of the cohort do not readily engage in activities. School continues to push and challenge them. Most Headteachers' are reporting similar issues.

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Q Were any Y11 in the PP group?

A: Yes, several in the cohort are in the disadvantaged group, The incidents of poor attendance seemed to have worsened since Covid. It is a common issue and many of the students seem to think that school is an option.

Finance

The EFSA had been pleased with the current figures presented at the last meeting. The projected surplus of £36k had now risen to £127k and this is being carefully monitored. There are still concerns about the pay award, but finances are moving in the right direction.

Bids - Fire exit, roofing etc. have now been submitted the results are expected around Easter.

Covid

This is not affecting the school much at the moment, but there are a number of other illnesses such as general flu, viruses etc. which are having a negative effect.

Deep Dives

School is about to begin a new round of 'light touch' deep dives next term. MM apologised for postponing the meeting on 25th January - a new date will be set for next half-term.

New date for Strategic group meeting required

Strike action - the Head apologised for the communication issued that had said this had been discussed with Trustees, it had in fact been discussed with the Chair not Trustees. This was very much an operational matter, but it had been good practice to discuss this matter with the Chair.

A Risk Assessment had been completed following discussions with other heads and the decision to close the school was made. **MM** thanked those union members who had given him notice of strike action. This was a delicate matter that had required careful handling. Initial guidance stated that schools could use supply staff to cover absences, but later information indicated that supply agencies were not sending staff out to schools.

Following examination of the timetable, and the fact that 21 lessons (at one time slot) were in need of cover, the decision had been made to close school.

Q: What were the proportion of staff out on strike?

A: School was aware of 25 staff. The vast majority of colleagues belonged to the NEU.

Q: What was the total number of teachers?

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

A: About 57-58FTE.

Q: Would it be possible to do things differently next strike day, e.g., all 6th form in?

A: If the same number of staff were out on strike, it was difficult to see how things could be done differently, but school would decide nearer the time. All Southport secondary schools had been closed. School had been open for the Maths challenge and for small numbers of vulnerable children.

MAT

It was noted that there had been a quite good reaction from the school staff about the initial proposals and discussions.

Trustees discussed the matter at some length, the discussions can be found in the confidential notes.

SDP – The Strategic group meeting had to be cancelled, a new date would be arranged.

22/43

FINANCE

The EFSA had agreed that balances and cash flow had improved and things were looking very positive.

Cleaning contract - a report had been sent to the Trustees. School was reluctant to go to tender on its own so had spoken to the Litmus Partnership to discuss them taking on the process. Trustees endorsed the recommendations made in the report. Andy thanked Sue Donnelly for all her support and advice during the process.

22/44

BEHAVIOUR/ ATTENDANCE

The new Pastoral staff had settled in well since September.

There have been a number of challenges this year - with 30 fixed-term suspensions and one permanent exclusion, and this was a very complex case.

There are also persistent problems with a Year 8 pupil. He has just failed his second managed move and is now back at Range. Staff were dealing with his return; it has been a difficult situation for the family, who have thanked school for its support. Enquiries have been made about other placements but they were all full. School continues to try to manage the pupil, but had made it very clear to parents what would happen if the situation deteriorated again.

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Vaping is continuing to be a problem. School is currently trialling a piece of equipment in the boys' toilets and are waiting to see whether this is successful. The system sends out an alert when vaping is taking place and it is hoped that this would work as a deterrent. Vaping is a common issue in most schools. The majority of pupils follow the rules but there are a number of repeat offenders. Students need to be educated on the dangers of vaping and it external speakers have been booked to speak to students during assemblies.

Mental health is still affecting behaviour and there are a number of students with complex issues.

The Mentor team are working hard at this time. Students are always referred on if more support is needed. Mindfulness sessions have been organised at lunchtime; students and parents/carers are signposted to a number of external agencies. As previously reported, the waiting list for CAHMS support is very long.

At the start of this academic year, an agreement with LFC Foundation – which offers mentoring support, had been signed.

The first of these group sessions was held before Christmas and the second is now underway. The programme looks very good and is being used for groups of pupils that just need a little more support.

School is also looking for additional programmes and support packages. E.g. looking at aspirations, health & wellbeing, etc.

School continues to work with Active Sefton. Two pupils are on the programme at this time.

Attendance

Whole school – 90.4%- comparable with National figures,

School had asked Sefton to come in under the SLA to explore what exactly was being actioned. Initiated by staff, an attendance forum had been set up in the area to discuss common issues.

School is now looking at putting some pupils in work placements through alternative provision to try and get them much more re-engaged with their education.

Some pupils are on reduced timetables. Eight pupils are on one of the schemes at the present time.

A significant number of children continue to be absent e.g. one pupil had attended 1 week in Year 7 and had been off ever since having suffered from a virus, Staff had visited the home and there had been referrals to Social Services but there has been no improvement. He has now been referred back to Early Help.

There are a number of pupils off sick with viruses, chest infections, Strep A etc.

Trustees acknowledged the extent of the work being done and thanked the team for all their efforts.

22/45

DISADVANTAGE PUPILS – Tom Dolly

A presentation was shared to screen giving details of efforts to close the gap, especially with disadvantaged boys.

A number of tactics are still being used and some have been tweaked slightly, these include:

- Class charts
- Logging behaviours
- Quality First Teaching
- Differentiation
- Metacognition etc.
- A number of mentoring programmes are in place.

Work is also ongoing with the National Tutoring Programme. Teams, clubs, extra-curricular trips etc.

School is looking at some home tutoring and targeted intervention twice a fortnight by taking pupils out of PHSE.

Easter school will take place again this year - details of the timetable will be released soon.

22/46

SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

The action plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. JMU outlined the details and updated Trustees on recent envelopments:

The Student Head team have been promoted and were mentioned in the pre-Christmas newsletter. The Head Team have also delivered assemblies to relevant year groups to introduce themselves and to the work of the team and role within the student council.

The Head Team are attending at least one tutor time per week with the relevant year group.

Focus group meetings have been held with small groups of pupils from each year group with the relevant AHoY. Results are being collated and a meeting with AHoYs has been arranged for W/C 6/2/23 to discuss next stages.

There had been some interesting outcomes and it was pleasing to see the good ideas put forward; pupils appreciated the initiative and felt valued.

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

A Year 12 Team is being developed in preparation for the handover next year.

It had been suggested that school emails be added to the Safeguarding Policy and be put on posters etc. These suggestions will be considered when the review takes place in September.

22/47

LINK REPORTS

None

22/48

POLICIES

- Anti Bullying
- Staff Attendance and Absence
- Disciplinary and Capability

Link reports, if possible to 30/03 or 18/05 meeting

The above policies had been reviewed by HR and had been made more concise whilst still containing the essential points.

- Equality Policy – Headteacher responsibility

Trustees ratified all the Policies presented.

22/49

SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINING

This item was raised at the Audit Committee meeting where it was agreed that it was good practice to have refreshers every 2 years

Richard Snowdon, Collette Simms, and the Headteacher had recently completed the course. A free online course is available through the National College (school is a member) and takes approximately two hours to complete.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

30th March 2023 – Zoom

6th July 2023 – possibly in person – still to be agreed

Meeting closed 5.55pm



Signed Chair

Date

30 March 2023