

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - ONLINE ZOOM MEETING

18th May 2023 – 4.00pm

PRESENT

Steph Donbavand	Sue Donnelly	Clare Gaskell	Mike McGarry – Headteacher
Karen Owens	Paul Povey	Jim Rimmer (Chair)	Collette Simms
Richard Snowdon			

APOLOGIES

Catherine Morris	Harriett Michael-Phillips
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ALSO PRESENT

Tom Dolly (SDHT)	Andy Pritchard (Resources Dir.)	Pauline Neilson (Clerk)
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23/36 WELCOME ACTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/37 DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS

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

23/38 GOVERNING BODY CHANGES

Collette Sims and Karen Owens's terms of Office are due to expire in September 2023. Both are Parent Trustees but as school did not want to lose two such experienced Trustees, it was suggested that they were co-opted for a further period of 12 months. They were happy to accept this proposal and it was possible as school still had 2 other elected Parent Trustees. They would have full voting rights.

In order to enable Trustees to discuss this Karen and Collette stepped into the on-line waiting room. Trustees voted to accept them as Co-Opted Trustees from 15/9/23 for 12 months. This was linked to further developments with the MAT situation.

23/39 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 30 March 2023

The minutes of the last meeting had been previously distributed and were agreed as a true and accurate record.

23/40 MATTERS ARISING

The PAN is 168. During the last couple of weeks about 9-10 students had been lost, mostly to private schools. However, 3 new students had joined and the number of enquiries was increasing.

The 6th form has had 150 applications and 132 have accepted a place to date.

Question: What were the numbers this time last year?

Answer: Applications had been around the 140 mark but 132 was ok. Efforts are still being made to encourage children to stay on into the 6th Form.

22/59 - The meeting with Tom and Harriett still needs to be arranged.

Training on KPIs had been due to take place after this meeting, but as there had been some apologies, it has been postponed. It was agreed that school would email Trustees to see who was interested in attending any sessions.

23/41 HEADTEACHER REPORT

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

It has been a very busy term and GCSEs and A levels were now underway.

There have been a number of assemblies on rules and regulations and all seemed to be fine to date. MM said he had spoken to a number of pupils at the end of exams and there had been no concerns.

There has been a lot of talk this year about grade boundaries and support to recover from Covid, so, hopefully, grade boundaries will be adjusted accordingly.

Behavioural Challenges

MM had recently attended the OFSTED briefing alongside other Heads from Sefton. There had been a lot of talk about Years 11 and 8, and in Primary schools, years 1 and 2, being unsettled. The report included a link to some National information.

A series of meetings were held yesterday as well as student panels - there were still some incidents of racist and homophobic language. School always deals with these very firmly. Parts of the Behaviour Policy has been updated and the new policy would be launched as soon as exams had finished.

The Headteacher is currently discussing this during assemblies and there are plans for Police workshops and further visits from external agencies. Communications will be sent out to families; it has been discussed at staff briefings.

School is bringing in a new detention system with the detention to be completed on the same day after school.

There have been a number of lates in the morning or late to lessons; school is taking a zero-tolerance approach. It is hoped that all this action will have a short sharp impact.

Everyone in school is responsible for good behaviour and for setting a good example, so school has tried to reset the core basics and ethos of the school.

Question – Dr Snowdon – What is the impact for the pupils staying for detention and then trying to use buses etc. to travel home?

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Answer: The school is flexible to a degree if there were difficulties, but need to emphasise the consequences for rule breaking. Staff will work with parents where needed.

The HMI at the OFSTED briefing had talked about Attendance. Attendance is worse than ever experienced before, due to a whole raft of reasons, and the National figures reflect this.

School has increased its EWO hours and Assistant Heads are working alongside certain families, but there is an increasing number of hard-to-reach families.

Question - RS -: It is interesting to see that the figures were in keeping with the rest of the country, but it seemed that school had the lowest unauthorised with the highest authorised?

Answer: School always tries to work with families. There have been a number of requests for holidays with some families having extraordinary circumstances.

Attendance across the board is not great, but school is working hard to address this.

Finance

School has reduced staffing by 1 FTE and there have been no concerns expressed from the EFSA.

Deep dives – some reports have been sent out; more are to follow.

Date of next Strategic Group – 12th June 2023.

Staffing

There is one new teacher in the Art department and 1 temporary contract comes to an end on 31 August. Interviews for one vacancy (in September 2023) are taking place on Monday 22 May.

Strikes – school has received 1 communication from parents challenging attendance when teachers had been on strike. The big unions were now in the process of balloting for more strike action.

ASCL has never balloted their members before. If all unions vote for strike action, school may have to close.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The next Strategic Group meeting (Behaviour and Attitudes) is on 12/6/23 via Zoom.

23/42 MINUTES FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 25th April 2023

These had been included for Trustee for formation.

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Matters Arising

- Projected Balance – the date needs to be changed.
- Holiday ski trip - insurance – school is still chasing the company for refunds.

23/43 LINK REPORTS

Some reports are still outstanding. Trustees were encouraged to meet with their school counterpart before the summer, and reminded that there would be a light touch this year.

23/44 POLICIES

Copies of Policies had been made available; Trustees accepted the following Policies:

- Designated Teacher (LAC and Previous LAC) Policy – no major changes
- ECT Induction Policy (request made to use full Early Careers Teacher title in future)
- Trustee Allowances Policy – this had also been discussed at the Audit Committee meeting.

Governors accepted all the Policies above.

Policies updated by the Headteacher (for information only;

- E- Safety
- Freedom of Information Publication scheme.

23/45 MEETING DATES NEXT YEAR

The Full Trustee meeting had been moved from 13th July to 6th July - hopefully in school. Clare Gaskell tendered her apologies in advance. A decision would be made about next year's meetings at this meeting.

Carol Service - 7th December. Apologies were tendered in advance from Paul Povey.

Audit Committee dates – still to be arranged.

23/46 AOB

A document had been circulated by ASCL showing recommended protocols in regards to monitoring IT. It was agreed to nominate a Trustee for this. They would visit school once per year to meet with the SLT to ensure protocols were being followed. Richard Snowdon agreed to take on the role of nominated Trustee for ICT.

23/47 DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 6 July 2023 – 4.00pm at school



Signed Chair: _____ Date: **6 July 2023**