

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

7:30pm, Wednesday 24 January 2018

In attendance: David Hartland (DH), Tony Brown (TB), Barbara Hignett (BH), Jonathan Holmes (JH), Kate Chaplin (KC), Veryan Johnston (VJ)

Also attending: Charlotte Gaines (CG, Clerk to Governors), James Andriot (JA, Acting Head of School), Sarah Sparke (SS, Chief Financial Officer)

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Graeme Atkins and Simon Kitchman who were attending a meeting for Heads and Chairs of schools in the Hexham and Haydon Bridge Partnerships, convened by Northumberland County Council. DH chaired the meeting.

2) Declaration of pecuniary, business or personal interests

No declarations of pecuniary, business or personal interest were made in addition to those already recorded in the Register of Interests.

CG advised that the details for JA have been added to the register of interest on the website. Declarations of interest have been received for VJ and KC and will be added to the register.

3) Minutes of meetings - approval and matters arising

The Minutes of the following meetings, having been circulated to Trustees, were discussed:

- AGM – 7 December 2017
- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 7 December 2017 – Part 1
- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 13 December 2017 – Part 1

Trustees agreed that these were an accurate record.

Matters arising

Trustees noted that the SIP reports had not yet been received. JH reminded Trustees that he attended the debrief with BH and SKI. It was hoped that the minutes would be received before the next Monitoring Committee meetings.

4) Uniform Policy

Trustees discussed the proposed changes to the uniform policy, which had been previously circulated. JH expressed concern about whether allowing more flexibility with suppliers would compromise staff ability to challenge non-compliance. He highlighted a recent complaint. JA advised that this had been resolved.

VJ suggested the proposal was a sensible and pragmatic approach. SKE supported the proposal to ensure that suppliers were accessible and that items could be purchased from

inexpensive providers such as supermarkets.

JA suggested that the policy either needed to be limited to very specific items with particular suppliers or to be more open. DH asked whether senior staff were comfortable that they could monitor uniform with the suggested changes. JA confirmed that they were.

BH and KC expressed concern over ambiguity regarding the length of trousers and the type of skirt.

Trustees agreed to the amendment of the uniform policy, subject to amending the skirt description in line with that for trousers, stipulating that a formal, black skirt should be worn.

JH questioned whether any further changes were being made to the PE uniform. JA agreed to check.

JA

5) Stakeholder engagement

DH advised that parents' evenings have been taking place.

6) Committee Membership and Chairs

DH outlined the various committees for VJ and KC and highlighted the need for more members on some, notably the QEHS Monitoring, Finance and Audit, and HR and Performance Committees. KC and VJ agreed to review each committee's Terms of Reference and feedback intentions in due course.

KC VJ

7) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

JH referred to a letter received by all schools from Andy Johnson, Project Director (Education and Skills), concerning NCC proposals relating to an increase in permanent exclusions across the County. DH suggested that this matter should be addressed by GA.

8) Close and confirm date of next meeting

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 February 2018.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.