

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 24 February 2021

Via Teams

In attendance: Graeme Atkins (GA), Veryan Johnston (VJ), Kate Chaplin (KC), David Hartland (DH), Tony Brown (TB), Johnathan Holmes (JH), Barbara Hignett (BH), Sarah Kemp (SKe)

Also attending: Charlotte Gaines (CG, Clerk to Trust Board), Neil Seaton (NS, HoS)

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

No apologies for non-attendance were received.

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.

3) Minutes of meetings - approval and matters arising

The Minutes of the following meetings, having been circulated to Trustees, were adopted as a true record.

4) Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 20 January 2021 – Part 1

5) Governance and trustee recruitment

DH highlighted the key point from the previously circulated report, noting the need to recruit parent trustees. He advised Trustees that Members feel there is a need for an educational professional. Trustees agreed.

DH noted that the Trust previously agreed to look at one large issue at a time and suggested that HLT needs to prepare for the future beyond the new build. VJ supported the approach and suggested using Academy Ambassadors to look for trustees with educational skills and Trustees approaching their own contacts. Trustees agreed.

GA provided an update regarding recruitment of Parent Trustees. PF has confirmed that he is keen to return. CG contacted Academy Ambassadors who advised that they can provide support with recruitment of trustees who are not connected with school. They technically should only work with MATs with more than three schools. However, due to the nature of the educational landscape in the North East, they typically get permission to recruit for MATs with fewer schools.

Trustees agreed DH and GA should follow up with the remaining parent who had been in touch, then to make recommendations to the Board regarding next steps, with a view to any potential new trustee attending the next full meeting. Members would be asked to change the status of existing trustees from co-opted to member appointed.

6) School updates

GA provided an update on plans for the return of all pupils to school at HMS, noting that a fuller reflection on arrangements during lockdown had taken place at the HMS Monitoring

CG

GA/DH

CG

Committee. He advised that all pupils will be back on Monday 8th March, with year 7 and 8 pupils being tested on the preceding Friday with a further two tests taking place in school within 10 days. The school's risk assessment and operational plan would be shared with Trustees in advance of pupils returning.

For QE, NS advised that it had been a positive start to the year and he is looking forward to welcoming back the remaining students in the week commencing 8 March. Testing was originally planned for the Monday and Tuesday but subsequent clarification from the Government has meant that the school will now test year 11-13 on Friday 5 March, 9 and 10 on Monday 8 March, with all students returning on Tuesday 9 March. As with HMS, the school's risk assessment and operational plan would be shared with Trustees in advance of students returning.

NS provided an update to Trustees on centre assessed grades (CAGs), which will be in lieu of grades through public examinations for years 11 and 13. In light of KAI's departure at Easter, and REP's recovery from an operation, NS advised former Assistant Headteacher, JH, will be returning to undertake aspects of their roles, with AFW moving to the post of Associate Assistant Headteacher to lead on CAGs and support with the timetable. NS noted that more clarification on CAGs is expected tomorrow.

DH asked what the process for testing would be. NS advised that students will be allocated a timeslot in which to come to school. DH asked whether this created a problem for students coming in from outlying areas. GA explained the process, including for those from outlying areas, which would be akin to that for year 9s when they came in specifically for immunisations.

SKe asked whether students would need to wear masks at all times. NS confirmed that they should be worn at all time except when outside, doing PE or eating. SKe questioned the provision for hard of hearing students. NS advised that RZ is looking into providing see-through masks where needed.

DH asked what training students will have with testing and the procedure if students test positive. NS explained the training and guidance being given and the arrangements for contract tracing.

7) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

Trustees discussed the circulated paper regarding admissions determination. Trustees agreed to continue with the existing approach for September 2022. CG to inform NCC by mid-March.

CG

Close and confirm date of next meeting

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The date of the next Part 1 meeting will take place on Wednesday 24 March 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.