

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 22 September 2021

QEHS Conference room

In attendance: Graeme Atkins (GA, Exec Head), David Hartland (DH, Chair), Sarah Kemp (SKe, Vice Chair), Barbara Hignett (BH), Kate Chaplin (KC), Tony Brown (TB), Johnathan Holmes (JH - via Teams).

Also attending: Charlotte Gaines (CG, Clerk to Trust Board), Neil Seaton (NS, HoS QE), Liam Watters (LW, HoS HMS), Sarah Spark (SS, CFO)

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Veryan Johnston and Patrick Ferguson.

2) Declaration of pecuniary, business or personal interests

SS advised that she now has a daughter at QEHS. CG advised that declaration of interest forms will be circulated for the annual review.

CG

3) Election of Chair

David Hartland was elected as Chair of the Trust Board

4) Election of Vice Chair

Sarah Kemp was elected as Vice Chair of the Trust Board

5) Minutes of meetings

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

- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 7 July 2021 – Part 1

Matters arising

GA reminded Trustees that the ethos paper had been circulated and that reference to the ethos will form part of the presentation to members.

6) TB membership

GA advised Trustees that Kim Cowie had regrettably resigned from the Trust Board due to family circumstances. Trustees agreed to remove KCo from the membership of the Board. GA advised that another Trustee with educational experience would be sought. Trustees agreed.

GA/DH

7) Chairs/Membership of Committees and meeting dates

GA advised that chairs of committees had been contacted about meeting dates. The schedule will be circulated once agreed.

CG

8) Return to School update

LW gave an update on the start of term at HMS. He noted that the start on site had regrettably been delayed due to the new buildings not being ready. Provision for year 5 had taken place in various venues with induction and team building activities. The previous HMS site had then been used for year 5 and 6 pupils, with year 7 and 8 pupils being taught remotely at home until all pupils were able to attend the new facilities at the start of this week. The first few days have been very positive and good feedback has been received.

LW advised that he is keen to get the extra-curricular offer in place as soon as possible. Parents have been invited to a welcome evening next week to be followed by a pastoral evening for all year groups to meet form tutors. An open evening and open days for prospective parents will follow thereafter.

Curriculum recovery will be a key focus following the impact of the pandemic and the delayed start. Baseline testing will take place in year 5, with CAT testing for years 7 and 8. LW noted, given the lack of recent KS2 SATs data, similar testing was also taking place at St Joseph's and Corbridge. Two intervention teachers have been recruited to teach English and maths across years 7-11 while Bridget Toor will lead the KS2 academic support and intervention. A key, ongoing focus for the middle school is to further develop the culture of reading.

SKe asked if year 7&8 pupils had been tested for covid before return and LW advised that all students across years 7-13 had been offered the opportunity to test at the old HMS site.

DH asked about arrival arrangements. LW advised that Monday's arrangements had been reviewed with a new working arrangement in place, which was a notable improvement. Further support was being sought from NCC Highways. DH asked whether there were any issues with older students mixing with younger children; LW advised that there were not and no concerns had been raised. KC asked if the gate to Hellpool Lane was open to students and GA advised that it was.

TB asked if there had been much communication with the neighbours. GA advised that he and NS had had a positive meeting with one neighbour about student arrival and departure. One concern had been raised about student conduct on one of the buses, which was then addressed.

NS gave an update on QEHS noting that much was similar to HMS. At the start of term all lessons were delivered online, with vulnerable students educated at HMS, Hexham Abbey and the racecourse. An induction day for year 9s at the racecourse had gone well. Parent 'welcome' evenings will take place for years 9, 10 and 11, with parent evenings with teaching staff continuing online for the time being.

NC outlined curriculum recovery plans including specific support for disadvantaged pupils. SKe asked when there would be clarity on what GCSEs and 'A' Levels would look like this year. NS advised that guidance from the DfE was expected soon following their recent consultation.

NS went onto advise on the current situation with covid, the system of controls in place and the fact that a contingency plan had been prepared should there be a spike in cases.

JH asked for an update on internal spaces not yet completed and handed over by the contractors. NS advised that the LRC and sixth form servery remained unfinished, but that the main school dining hall was available to sixth formers as a study space outside of break and lunch times. JH queried if the wi-fi was operational and NS confirmed that it was as far as he was aware.

9) Stakeholder engagement

GA advised that councillors and the local MP had been in school to see the new facilities prior to pupils and students returning. GA also advised of the intention to get back to meeting with neighbours once the schools had settled into the new facilities.

SS advised that an advert has gone out for a facilities manager and for casual lettings assistants. In the meantime, staff have been asked if they could help at weekends and on evenings.

10) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

None.

Close and confirm date of next meeting

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The date of the next Part 1 meeting is 20 October 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda