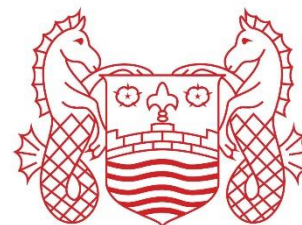


**The Netherhall School and Oakes College  
Local Governing Body  
Meeting Minutes**



8 July 2021

**Governors Present**

Shelley Monk (SM Chair), Chris Tooley (CT Principal), Gilles Monniaux (GM), Nicky Odgers (NO), Rob Driscoll (RJD), Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS), Ellie Wood (EW), Rachel Calder (RC), Kit Temple (KT) and Claire Jefferey (CJ)

**Others Present**

Kerrie Jones (KJ Clerk)

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Acceptance of Apologies for Absence</b>	
	There were no apologies.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items</b>	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Agree minutes of last meeting and matters arising not on this agenda</b>	
	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed when face to face meetings resume.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum statement – the final version was approved by email.</li> <li>• Risk register - updated and submitted to the Trust</li> <li>• Committee chair elections for 2021-22: GM was re-elected as Chair of Resources Committee with RC continuing as Vice Chair. Teaching, Learning and Behaviour Committee Chair/Vice Chair tbc</li> <li>• A social event has been organised for 20 July (<i>subsequent to this meeting this event has been postponed</i>)</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Principal's Report</b>	
	<p>The Principal's report had been shared. The following items were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roll</b> A further twenty places have been requested since this report. Many of these applications are from Hong Kong and are across all year groups. There are ten Y11 applications via the Fair Access panel (the usual route for Y11 applications). 206 places have been confirmed for Y7 in September. <b>Q</b> <i>Why were there more leavers in Y7/8?</i> <b>A</b> This is likely to be due to some going to CAST and some starters not settling. However, we do have an equal number coming in from other schools</li> <li>• <b>Exclusions</b> <b>Q</b> <i>Exclusions are up slightly – is this related to covid?</i> <b>A</b> Some students have found it difficult returning to school after lockdown and having had so much freedom; this is a national issue. There are just a few students responsible</li> </ul>	

	<p>for many of the exclusions and the majority of these are no longer at the school.</p> <p><b>Q</b> <i>Are there any benchmarks we could look at?</i></p> <p><b>A</b> There are no benchmarks for exclusions as schools have different ways they apply exclusions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attendance</b> CT explained that some students are absent due to concerns and anxiety so it is difficult to draw conclusions from the attendance data. <b>Q</b> <i>Do we know the impact of isolation?</i> <b>A</b> We have a daily print out of those affected by covid. There are about 50 currently self-isolating which is approximately 5% of students and this aligns with the attendance data.</li> <li>• <b>Covid-19 response</b> There have been two recent positive cases (students). Students are being encouraged to use LFTs and log the results with students and parents being sent reminders. 70% at the moment are recording the data. All staff are currently in work and are being encouraged to take and log the tests. DfE guidance for the start of next term is not yet clear. It is likely that the need to retain social distancing, wear masks and form bubbles will be removed. Two LFT tests will need to be completed when pupils return and the start of term can be staggered to facilitate this: We would want to ensure students are negative before returning. They will then need to test at home for remainder of September. <b>Q</b> <i>Can the school take local decisions on restrictions such as social distancing?</i> <b>A</b> No, we will need to follow the guidance which aims to return schools to 'normal. For example, there is a strong recommendation about not wearing face masks</li> <li>• <b>Personnel</b> <b>Q</b> <i>Could we include end of year data to show length of service of leavers and reasons for leaving coded so that any trends could be identified?</i> <b>A</b> CT confirmed that this could be built in. CJ suggested that Governors could revisit idea of exit interviews with leavers.</li> <li>• <b>Safeguarding</b> There has been a recent concern where a student left the premises without permission. Procedures have been checked and the failing identified. Currently all practices are being reviewed and additional procedures put in place to avoid this happening again.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Survey Outcomes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff (SL)</b> A summary of the staff survey had been shared. This year the middle responses – 'don't know' and 'not sure' – were removed. Results were similar to last year with a similar number of respondents. Staff continue to be proud to be part of the Netherhall school which is testament to the work that is going on. A few areas were flagged including behaviour, and leadership and management which will be looked at.</li> </ul>	

	<p>A question was added this year regarding the Centre Assessed Grades process. Staff responded that they felt well supported in this stressful process. SL praised Tom Hunter and Richard Wilson for their efforts with this.</p> <p><b>Q</b> <i>For those staff where there seem to be issues, do we have any idea what the challenges might be for them?</i></p> <p><b>A</b> It is true that some individuals have responded negatively across the survey. In future we may add a final question to ask if they would like a follow up. It is important that we look at how we use this data and how we can improve.</p> <p>It was notable that understanding of the MAT has declined this year. Perhaps this is in part due to the school having fairly high autonomy. The Trust provides support in a number of areas and some staff benefit hugely from their involvement in cross-trust groups. It is important that the school ensures staff understand the benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Students</b> Data to come to LGB in the autumn</li> <li>• <b>Parents (SM)</b> A comparison for 2019/2020/2021 was provided. There were 316 responses, the highest ever. There was also an increase in positive comments. Although there were some negative comments it should be noted that these were individual comments and that overall the responses were very positive. A small number reported bullying but the vast majority said their children were happy and felt safe at school. There were a few comments around behaviour and whilst the majority feel the Behaviour Policy is good, there were some comments about consistency of implementation. Pastoral care was praised and the online parents' evenings were well received. Whilst the majority thought that teaching was good, some variation in quality of teaching was noted and for homework some felt there was not enough or that it was sporadic. Most agreed the school is well led and managed with strong communication. There was praise for Chris Tooley, Karim Marsaoui and SLT members, and most would recommend the school and the Oakes to others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q</b> <i>Is the school continuing with online parent evenings after covid?</i></p> <p><b>A</b> This was also popular with staff so it is likely a hybrid model will be adopted as for some it might be better to come into school</p> <p>CT noted that parents responded positively with regards staff handling of covid and dealing with the impact of the pandemic.</p>	<p>SM to send out after meeting</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Appointment of Chair of Governors</b>	
	<p>SM explained that she would very much like to continue leading the Netherhall LGB and being part of a tremendous team of governors who provide challenge and support to the school.</p>	<p>KJ will take the recommendation to the Trust Board</p>

	SM left the room to allow governors to vote. Governors voted unanimously for SB to be reappointed.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Link Visits</b>	
	<p>RC completed a Safeguarding link visit and had shared her report. The visit was a comprehensive one in which she met all the safeguarding team. Staff felt well supported by SL and the team.</p> <p>Issues identified in the report have been discussed with SM and NO. They will conduct a review of processes which the school uses to identify and support students with mental health issues, in particular in the Oakes. The review will look at grouping of needs and how these are reported and what training and resources the school has access to.</p> <p>SL reported that since RC's visit, extra support has been put in at the Oakes in the form of a TA to support academic and mental wellbeing. The school is also looking at ways to fund external support.</p> <p>[7pm SL left]</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Committee headlines</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the committee meetings will be uploaded to the shared drive.</p> <p>Key items discussed:</p> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget agreed to be recommended to Trust Board for approval</li> <li>• Still seeking a governor with finance skills. Governors were asked to share this with contacts</li> </ul> <p><b>Teaching, Learning and Behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance,</li> <li>• inclusion</li> <li>• wellbeing</li> </ul>	PBS will follow up with a contact who may be interested.
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB and dates for next year</b>	
	SM will circulate a questionnaire as part of a review of the effectiveness of the LGB this year and to consider its impact. There will also be a planning meeting in September. The LGB dates will be circulated.	

<b>Action Log</b>			
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
5	Share parent survey summary	End of term	SM
6	Seek Trust approval form SM reappointment as Chair		KJ
8	Governor recruitment (finance skills) - follow up with a contact who may be interested.		PBS