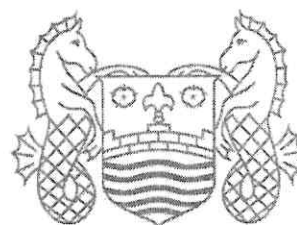


**The Netherhall School and Oakes College
Local Governing Body
Meeting Minutes**



24 January 2023 on site

Governors present

Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS Co Chair), Nicky Odgers (NO Co Chair), Chris Tooley (CT Principal), George Bucknall (GB), Gilles Monniaux (GM), Ellie Wood (EW) and Heather Edwards (HE)

HE arrived at 6.10pm
GM arrived at 6.15pm

Others Present

Helen Perfect (HP), Karin Marsaoui (KM), Tom Hunter, (TH), Rob Syposz (RS), Roxanna Glennon Lynch (RGL), Janet Goldsworthy (JG Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence	
	No apologies. The committee welcomed George Bucknall, staff governor, who has also agreed to be Health and Safety link governor.	
2	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	There were no declarations of interest. Send Business Interest Form to GB	JG
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	
	The minutes of 20.10.2022 were approved. JG to send minutes of 06.12.2022 to PBS and NO which would be approved at the next LGB as well as the minutes for 24/01/23. This week's strike action impact will be considered under AOB.	JG
4	Principal's Report	
	Key points regarding financial challenges: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of bungalow to be completed for £650k • Budget forecast improving and likely to be breakeven at end of year with a £206k surplus for 2023-2024 but only if a standard 3% pay increase is accepted. • Caution recommended as government intimating that there will be no funding of future pay increases AL have introduced a curriculum blueprint which sets out their aspirations for all schools in the trust. Schools need to enter their judgement but no criteria for scores given. The curriculum has been risk reviewed with no real change. CT has been asked to join the National Steering Group for Whole Education – congratulations expressed. Q Does AL assess school's blueprint scores	

Chair's signature.....

Date..... 3/3/23

	<p>A No schools assesses themselves then re-assesses at a later stage</p> <p>Q How often is the assessment updated?</p> <p>A Suggestion from AL is that one of the 4 sections is updated each term</p> <p>Q The attendance numbers look disappointing? Are we saying that 30% of Year 11 are PA?</p> <p>A Mobility is very high and one covid absence of 5 days for one student can result in these levels of absence. Moving attendance forward is challenging and the levels of non-attendance do not reflect the huge effort going into improving attendance.</p> <p>Q It would be interesting to know how big the group is that is PA excluding mobile students and those with medical needs? Can we see a report showing all categories of attendance?</p> <p>A This will be presented at the next meeting</p> <p>Q Is there anything more that can be done to improve attendance?</p> <p>A A mobility officer has been appointed to work on strategies for these students. For example, 140 students have arrived and left this year already.</p> <p>Q Exclusions look to be above the national average?</p> <p>A Figures can be misleading as for example one family accounts for nearly half of all exclusions</p>	DB
5	Curriculum strategy	
	<p>TH joined the meeting at 6.35pm.</p> <p>A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The curriculum statement is unchanged from last year. It is read mostly by prospective Year 7 student families.</p> <p>Q Are many students doing the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)?</p> <p>A About 25% of sixth form – growing and now timetabled.</p> <p>Q Is this compulsory?</p> <p>A No it's voluntary. We need to identify someone to own this if it is to grow.</p> <p>Q Do we need to add 'Alvin' to the curriculum offer?</p> <p>A No as this applies to mainly IEP students in Years 10 and 11 only and is a short-term measure meant to transition students back to mainstream school.</p> <p>The curriculum statement was approved by those present.</p> <p>The Provider Access Policy has been updated to cover the curriculum for years 7 to 13 and was approved by all governors present.</p> <p>The curriculum section of the Risk Register had also been reviewed – no changes were made.</p>	
6	Bright Futures for All	
	<p>HP and KM joined the meeting at 7.10pm.</p> <p>A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting reviewing sections 2a and 2c of the SIP and governor questions had been answered in the report.</p> <p>Q Has Pupil Voice been captured?</p> <p>A This is explored in more detail in other parts of the SIP via surveys, student voice panels and curriculum reviews.</p> <p>Q Are students asked directly if their relationships with staff are positive.</p> <p>A Yes and students confirm that relationships with staff are positive.</p> <p>Q Does the work on the homework policy feed into the curriculum statement?</p> <p>A Yes and also through the golden threads</p> <p>Q What would be the expectation for individual teachers in terms of their knowledge of the vision, marking and the golden threads?</p> <p>A We have confirmed through QA that 90% of staff and pupils would be able to answer this satisfactorily.</p> <p>Q Have all faculty areas been reviewed?</p> <p>A There are 2 faculties remaining to be assessed.</p> <p>HP and KM left the meeting at 7.30pm</p>	

7	KS3 – KS5 achievement report	
	<p>Q Are there any key areas to focus on? A KS5 is a focus but require further development. There is a group of hard working students but the standard of work needs to further improve.</p> <p>Q Is the current standard of students due to the ability of the cohort or down to the approach of the exam board? A It is true that exam boards are not giving as much steer as last year but the progress in value added is related essentially to curriculum development being matched to the cohort.</p> <p>Key points: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, KS5 are a weaker cohort (Value added will be good but attainment may be weaker) and staff need to improve the work ethic of the critical mass to develop the cohort further. • Vulnerable students have been identified early and an adjusted more proactive programme is underway for them. • Governors were encouraged by the interventions on offer in terms of the learning mentor and the new study area provided. 	
8	SEND report	
	<p>The SEND policy and SEND information report for the website had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Governors requested that the date on the SEND information report be amended to 2022-2023 and updated in future at the start of each academic year. Governors approved the SEND Policy and the SEND Information Report. RGL to upload the amended SEND Information Report to school website. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question of the level of the SEND budget had been reviewed and the running costs of the department needed to be assessed further and potentially separated out as a new specific budget line. GM offered to support RGL with scenario modelling. • The possibility of renting SEND equipment was suggested and RGL would look into this. <p>Q How was the support of a psychotherapist enlisted? A This arose from a personal connection at the Faculty of Education. A student visits every week to support students and it is hoped this will continue on each year. Governors thanked RGL for this initiative.</p>	RGL
9	Policies for approval	
	<p>The Provider Access Policy was approved. The Attendance Policy was reviewed.</p> <p>Q What evidence of medical appointments is required A Very little</p> <p>Q Do we feel that the rewards for 100% attendance are inclusive? A Individual circumstances are taken into consideration and 100% attendance is not needed for an award</p> <p>Q How much is 'going to the Prom' a motivating factor? A A stint of 15 hours attendance at after school clubs is required for entrance to the Prom.</p> <p>Q Is truancy a behaviour or an attendance issue? A It's more of a behaviour issue.</p> <p>Q What is the trigger for a safeguarding concern arising from non-attendance A 10 days but analysis is available for absences of 1 day, 2 days and a week</p> <p>The Attendance Policy was then approved.</p>	

10	Governance items	
	<p>The next AL Governance Forum is on 06.02.2023 and PBS will attend. Governor vacancies – PBS and NO are speaking to 4 potential parent governors and 1 trust governor. Skills gaps are attendance and finance. A Discussion regarding the location and timings of LGB meetings followed. It was agreed that there would be one F2F meeting each term with SLT attending virtually if more convenient.</p> <p>It was agreed to move the 8th May meeting to 9th May.</p> <p>JG to send out new LGB meeting dates and change calendar invitations.</p>	JG
11	AOB	
	<p>A staff member informed governors about the strike action due on 1st February and commented that CT had a good plan and that was working well across all the unions.</p> <p>GM confirmed that after several years as a parent governor he would be standing down at the end of the summer term or Autumn Term depending on handover period to the replacement Finance Link Governor. The governors thanked him for his hard work and conscientious approach to the role.</p>	
12	Date and time of next meeting	
	<p>LGB – 1st March via Zoom The meeting closed at 8.15pm.</p>	

Items for Future Meetings	
Meeting	Item
LGB	Low Level Concern Policy

Action Log			
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
2	Send Business Interest Form to GB	March 2023	JG
3	Send minutes of 06.12.2022 to NO and PBS	January 2023	JG
4	Report showing all categories of attendance and excluding mobility and medical needs	March 2023	DB
10	Send out new meeting dates and change calendar invitations	January 2023	JG

Rolling Action Log			
ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Send Business Interest Form to HE	January 2023	JG	Outstanding
Send draft minutes 20.10.2022 to NO and PBS	January 2023	JG	Completed December 2022
File finance governor link visit report	January 2023	GM	See below

Chair's signature.....

Financial modelling	January 2023	GM	See below
Review SEND policy and statement	January 2023	RGL	Completed January 2023
Report to governors on SEND funding consultation	January 2023	RGL	Completed January 2023
Check with RGL that SEND policy and SEND statement have been reviewed	December 2022	NO	Completed January 2023
Visit report on key financial challenges facing the school	Spring 2023	GM	Visit information now obsolete but an overview would be helpful as handover for the new link governor when appointed
Handover with new safeguarding governor	December 2022	RC/HE	Completed

Approved

Chair's signature.....
