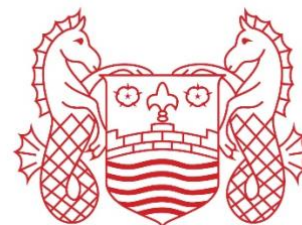


# The Netherhall School and Oakes College Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes



9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Teams 6pm

## Governors present

Paul Bullen-Smith (PBS Co Chair), Nicky Odgers (NO Co Chair), George Bucknall (GB), Noah Crew-Gee (NCG), Ellie Wood (EW), Yair Doza (YD), Peter Monteath (PM) joined 6.10, Michael Tamvakis (MT), Lauren Shields (LS) and Chris Tooley (Principal)

## Others Present

Tom Hunter, Dan Berry and Janet Goldsworthy (Clerk)

The meeting was quorate throughout.

	ITEM	ACTION
1	<b>Acceptance of Apologies for Absence</b>	
	<p>Ellen Winchester (covid), Heather Edwards (family cover issue).</p> <p>Sadly Claire Hunter has had to resign from the LGB for personal reasons. All accepted by governors present.</p> <p>The committee welcomed Ambili Nair who has just been elected as a parent governor. Ambili introduced herself to the committee and the committee introduced themselves to her.</p>	Notify AL
2	<b>Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items</b>	
	None and no changes.	
3.	<b>Agree minutes of last meeting and matters arising not on this agenda</b>	
	The minutes of 20.03.2024 were approved without amendment.	
4.	<b>SIP link 3a Deepen parental partnerships through proactive management</b>	
	<p>There are 2 strands of focus:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of communications through ALIS, videos and other messaging</li> <li>• Further development of the Integrate project</li> </ul> <p>Q Has there been any feedback from the funder of the Integrate project? A The funder visited the project last year and the feedback was positive. The organisation is generally more interested in the personal stories than the facts and figures. We are working towards sustainability of the project and a lasting nature for the programme. This will require the setting up of a charitable trust to continue the work.</p> <p>Q What is the timescale for charitable status? A It is hoped that this will be completed over the Summer and by September at the latest.</p> <p>Q What is the school's future involvement with the charitable trust? A CT and TH will be 2 of the 4 trustees for the project. Some school administrative resources may also be required which will be charged back to the trust. Additional resource will be recruited to cover this need.</p> <p>Q How long are the videos?</p>	

	<p>A The optimal time is 30-40 seconds. The audience is currently around 1000. The aim is to drive up demand for ALIS which is currently probably at its limit.</p> <p>Q Is it possible to monitor attendance of specific groups?</p> <p>A Some groups are monitored by the data collected is entirely dependent on what is offered by the parent. The name of the child and the school is generally given but other information is patchy. As a result, it's impossible to know which demographics are being supported and this is an issue.</p> <p>Q Will the Integrate project still be relevant to governors next academic year?</p> <p>A CT and TH are employees of the school and although the charity will not be part of the school, governors may still be interested to hear about it.</p> <p>Q Are there other schools with associated charities we could examine?</p> <p>A Schools being involved with a charity in this way at scale is unusual.</p> <p>Q The Integrate Communications Manager is leaving. How is this being addressed moving forward?</p> <p>A The administration team of the school will be expanded and the administration of the charity will be distributed throughout the team and then charged back to the charity.</p> <p>Our newly elected parent governor commented that the Queen Edith Primary School is associated with a charitable trust over which the governors don't have any oversight although the Deputy Head is involved in the charity.</p> <p>TH informed governors that the school had applied for NHS funding of £300 over 3 years to set up early stage mental health interventions. The school received £150k in NHS funding for this purpose. A counsellor will be employed to set up the intervention and design the programme and follow up impact.</p> <p>Q How will referrals for the intervention be managed?</p> <p>A Integrate will be expanded to manage the referrals for which there will be a limited number of slots probably allocated on a first come first served basis.</p> <p>Q How will the intervention be supervised?</p> <p>A Independently.</p> <p>Q Will a mental health governor be required?</p> <p>A Possibly! NO and PS to consider.</p>	<b>NO/PBS</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Principal's report</b>	
	<p>CT commented that the school's vision for education is about the entire wellbeing of the child and this includes mental health. The fact that the school is involved in commissioning a mental health practitioner is quite unusual and very innovative.</p> <p>CT had circulated his Principal's Report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q Suspensions total 8 at this stage compared to 121 at the same time last year. What is the main thing leading to the decrease in suspensions?</p> <p>A There has been an increase in capacity of ReBoot and of the pastoral team to focus on the fact that 'children behave better when you educate them about behaviour'. The school has the programmes and the manpower in place to train staff, remove pupils from class, build relationships and educate pupils about their behaviour.</p> <p>There has been a slight improvement in attendance which will be a key focus for the SIP next year. There are new government requirements for attendance</p>	

	<p>and new codes. Attendance is a national issue. Ofsted commented that the school were doing all the right things in this respect.</p> <p>Q The 50% threshold for measurement of attendance seems low? A Attendance below 50% raises a safeguarding concern. Anything above this level is not manageable.</p> <p>Staffing is relatively stable at this point in the year. In general, recruitment has been successful compared to other schools in the trust.</p> <p>Q A cover supervisor is leaving. Is the new recruit a fixed term contract? A Cover Supervisors are on probation until they themselves decide if they wish to become permanent.</p> <p>Finance is a key risk area. However, the second draft of the budget reflects a balanced position. However, the school may need to amend the budget further if any further staff resign before 31<sup>st</sup> May.</p> <p>Q Is there any new data on the intervention relating to attendance of PP pupils where parents are involved at an early stage by teaching staff? A The member of staff involved has been off sick but data will be provided once the staff member has returned.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>SEND and Inclusion Review</b>	
	<p>The SEND policy and statement and a SEND link governor report had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Q What support is in place for explaining the banking system to Year 13s? A University entrants are given a talk about what is available to them in the form of grants etc and parents are also involved. The current economic outlook is not encouraging for many students and so other routes to employment are discussed as university is not the only option.</p> <p>The SEND information report was well received but will require a further update in September due to staffing changes. This will be added to the agenda for the first LGB in the new academic year.</p> <p>DB also noted some minor typos and other amendments which include adding 'they' to the 'him/her' reference on page 1.</p> <p>YD explained that he had been able to meet with DB but had not had the opportunity to complete a full visit. Key points of note include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the classroom to accommodate neurodiversity</li> <li>• Regular monitoring of impact which is generally good</li> <li>• Occasional inconsistency in teaching of SEND pupils and support for them</li> </ul> <p>Q The Ofsted report mentioned that the teaching of SEND pupils is consistent? Which view is correct? A Both are correct. A more detailed review of SEND teaching does indicate some inconsistency.</p>	<b>JG</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Link Governor report: Leadership and Development</b>	
	This report will be put on hold until further notice.	

<b>8.</b>	<b>Policy approval</b>	
	<p>The Accessibility Plan, the Provider Access Statement and the SEND policy and information report were all approved by those governors present.</p> <p>Q Does the SEND policy adequately address ADHD?  A ADHD can be a combination of different traits which often goes undiagnosed but is a condition of significance amongst pupils. Staff are well trained in neurodiversity so in terms of practice on the ground, it is addressed.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>The Oakes Sixth Form</b>	
	<p>A Link Governor visit had taken place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024.</p> <p>Q There had been a press release relating to the Ofsted visit in the Cambridge Evening News which had mistakenly labelled Netherhall as an 11-16 school. Was there any follow up from this?  A The school had contacted the paper who were very apologetic and corrected the mistake immediately.</p> <p>A Safeguarding Link Governor report had also been submitted.</p> <p>Q What is the SENSO filter and monitoring system?  A This is a school system which monitors key strokes within school and logs any concerns. Filters within the system need to be appropriately set otherwise too many concerns are logged and this then becomes unmanageable.</p> <p>Staff commented that it was very useful having a governor who is so experienced in safeguarding. It had been noted that safeguarding within the school is beyond 'effective'.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Governance items</b>	
	<p>A new parent governor, Ambili Nair, has been elected and appointed to the LGB. It was also noted that AL are expanding with new primary and secondary schools being taken on.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Reasons to be cheerful</b>	
	<p>The school will shortly receive delivery of a new school Minibus-Lite which had been initially ordered over 2 years ago. The vehicle does not require a special licence and the minibus has disabled access.</p> <p>The bat survey relating to the sale of the school bungalow will be completed soon and thereafter the sale of the bungalow so work on the toilet refurbishment can then take place, hopefully next Autumn Term.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	None	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Date, time and venue of next meeting</b>	
	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Netherhall IT board room	

The meeting closed at 20.45.

**Items for Future Meetings**

Meeting	Item
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Leadership and development blueprint Link Governor visit – student experiential programme Link Governor visit – leadership and development

**Action Log**

ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
4	Consider whether a mental health governor is required	July 2024	NO/PBS
6	Add review of SEND policy and information report to Autumn Term 2024 agenda	July 2024	JG

**Rolling Action Log**

ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Speak to Kerrie Jones re governor lanyards, photos and fobs		JG	Completed