

York High School

Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 6pm held at the school

Present: Andy Pope (Vice Chair) Val Roddis
Cllr Andrew Waller Sally Gordon
Amanda Crouch Richard Lavell

In Attendance Victoria Burns (Deputy Headteacher), Sophie Triffitt (Clerk)

Action

1. **Welcome, Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interest**

Andy Pope, as Vice Chair, would Chair the meeting.

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted for the Headteacher, Nicki Mitchell, Sarah Hammond and Ian Savage.

The Deputy Headteacher informed governors that the Headteacher would attend the May meeting. Governors recorded their thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Headteacher for the hard work and smooth management of the school.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 8th February 2024** (previously circulated)

Resolution: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and approved.

Governors discussed the LGB membership, noted the general governor vacancy and agreed to consider potential governors from the community.

Matters Arising and Action Plan

Action 1: Governors were reminded to complete required training.

3. **Executive Headteacher Recruitment Update**

The Deputy Headteacher informed governors that four candidates were shortlisted with two taken to the second day of recruitment, but the decision had been taken not to appoint. Discussions were underway as to the way forward.

Challenge: Governors questioned the leadership structure decision and what had informed the need for an Executive Headteacher.

Challenge: Governors noted disappointment that the experience, insight and York High knowledge of governors had not been sought in the process as they felt they could have been a valuable support to the process.

Challenge: Governors raised concern at the communication around the Executive Headteacher recruitment process and as raised at the February meeting governors had wanted an involvement and role within the process.

4. **Headteacher Report / Weekly Pulse**

The Deputy Headteacher reported that:

- Attendance was reporting broadly similar to the last report and slightly better than the same period in 23/24 but significant work and investment was being made to deliver this position.
- Behaviour was reporting positively with suspensions significantly lower than the same period in 23/24 and only one permanent exclusion made compared to eight for the same period 23/24.
- Pupil mobility was balanced, three students left last week (two moved out of area) and three joined. Pupil numbers stood at 747 with Year 7 full.

Challenge: A governor asked if there had been any admission appeals. The Deputy Headteacher confirmed there had been one successful appeal for Year 7 following a robust panel process.

In response to a governor the Headteacher confirmed that the 150 PAN was planned to take effect from September 2024.

Challenge: A governor asked how Year 7 reported for attendance. The Deputy Headteacher confirmed it was the strongest year group for attendance at 92%.

Challenge: A governor asked if there was a strategic plan to work with Year 7 to maintain and improve on that attendance. The Deputy Headteacher confirmed strategic plans were in place with support

provided by the School Improvement Partner through weekly attendance mentoring and data reports. Post Easter the focus would be on growing a positive culture on attendance and supporting those with good attendance to increase to 95% or above.

Challenge: A governor noted that the Year 6 cohort who would be transitioning to York High School have a high level of need and asked if that would impact attendance. The Deputy Headteacher explained that the number of children with EHCPs would be balanced by those leaving in Year 11. There was a request for a place in Year 7 for a child with an EHCP with low attendance linked to their need and attendance cannot be a factor in an admission decision. The SEN team were working hard to offer increasingly more to children with additional needs which in turn supports their attendance.

Challenge: A governor noted that the impact of Covid would be seen for a number of years as children of lock down feed through.

Attendance Actions and Impact Report (tabled)

The Deputy Headteacher shared the anonymised attendance and persistent absence tracker provided by the School Improvement Partner which was a key tool for the Deputy Headteacher as Attendance Lead, SENCO, TAs, Pastoral Leaders, attendance team and administrators. The Deputy Headteacher explained how the data informed strategic focus for interventions and support at an individual level and identifies patterns of attendance / absence to direct staff discussion and actions around barriers.

The Deputy Headteacher highlighted the group of children categorised as severely absent and explained it was important to know these children and have plans in place but they have significant needs beyond the school offer.

The Deputy Headteacher shared the DfE attendance pyramid approach and the menu of intervention for the different levels.

Challenge: A governor asked if the external and specialist support teams were providing the help needed. The Deputy Headteacher explained that school can make referrals but waiting lists can be long and school need to take short term actions in the interim. There were currently 26 Early Help Assessments which was significantly higher than typical numbers locally.

Challenge: A governor recognised that the level of sophistication, focus and analysis of the data and the range of interventions should have a long-term impact. The governor also noted the level of work and resilience in addressing attendance. The Deputy Headteacher noted that the creation and production of the easily accessible data to embed a culture of focus and discussion on attendance across the staff body has been significant.

Challenge: A governor asked if attendance staff have wellbeing support, given some of the difficult conversations and challenging situations they manage. The Deputy Headteacher assured governors that staff wellbeing was a serious consideration and confirmed that there were link meetings and supervision which provide a mechanism for wellbeing support.

The Deputy Headteacher noted that Attendance Support Workers were good at feeding back concerns on pupils and families.

Challenge: A governor thanked the Deputy Headteacher for the update to support governor understanding of the work to encourage attendance through support which was in contrast to the perception of a hard-line approach on attendance. The Deputy Headteacher noted that the request for fines had significantly decreased this year and where children were persistently absent there was a need to understand and respond to the barriers to attendance.

Challenge: A governor suggested that a vocational offer could be a hook to getting some young people into school more. The Deputy Headteacher explained that there was a strong broad and deep curriculum offer including DT, Food, a new option for September 2024 in engineering, Child Development, Health and Social Care, Sport, Music and Performing Arts with City and Guilds and BTEC qualifications in addition to GCSE.

5. Inspire Update (including impact data) (tabled)

The Deputy Headteacher presented an Inspire impact report update noting the significantly reduced numbers of exclusion and suspensions.

Challenge: A governor noted that the work to develop the school culture and ethos had also had a significant impact.

The Deputy Headteacher shared anonymised individual impact data on behaviour and attendance and Boxall profiles for children on entry and exit from Inspire with improvement in all but one competency area (strand e – cognitively engaging with peers and learning together).

Challenge: A governor suggested that adding suspensions to attendance data would present a more accurate comparison.

Challenge: A governor noted concern, following a suspension panel, on the decision of the Trust to refuse a second placement in Inspire for a student who had not transitioned positively back into main school. The Deputy Headteacher explained that Inspire would have a reduced offer for the exam period as there were 12 Year 11 students with access arrangements to support through exams which would impact capacity for a KS3 group during the exam period but the decision to not offer a place has been challenged given the risk of permanent exclusion and a negotiated offer was being discussed

Challenge: A governor emphasised the need for the alternative provision to support schools with high need cases, particularly where there was a significant impact to other children in school and the wellbeing and safety of children and staff.

Challenge: A governor asked how behaviour had been different for those returning from a KS3 Inspire placement. The Deputy Headteacher explained that it had been variable and was too soon to tell for some. The young people tend to do well in the alternative provision and then find it hard when returning. Two of three students were doing well and not at risk in terms of behaviour. Nine were on a phased return and there was another four weeks of transition after Easter. Twelve weeks in Inspire was unlikely to fully change the behaviours of the most challenging children but was improving resilience and providing respite.

The Deputy Headteacher noted that a significant factor in the behaviour improvement was the work of Mr Walker, Senior Pastoral Leader, and strategic changes implemented by the Headteacher.

6. **School Improvement Plan**

There was no update to report. Carried over to the May meeting.

7. **Governing Body Matters**

Governor Visits and Training (previously circulated)

Governors were reminded to complete required training and provided with CYC governor training opportunities for the summer term.

The SEND link governor had met with the SENCO and was reported on later in the agenda.

LGB Drop in Sessions

Governors were reminded of the LGB drop-in sessions.

Governor Re-appointment – Amanda Crouch

Resolution: Governors elected Amanda Crouch as a general governor when her term as parent governor ends on 24th April 2024.

Action: Start a parent governor election process.

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8. **Teaching and Learning**

It was noted that a link governor would be agreed at the May 2024 meeting.

9. **Standards**

The link governor had a meeting scheduled for Friday 22nd March 2024.

10. **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

The link governor was scheduling a meeting with the Deputy Headteacher.

11. **Attendance and Behaviour**

The attendance link governor was scheduling a meeting with the Deputy Headteacher.

The behaviour link governor had met with the Senior Pastoral Leader and would submit a report.

Attendance Actions and Impact Report

Addressed as part of the Headteacher Report.

12. **Special Needs**

The SEND link governor had met with the SENCO with discussion focused on the high level of need in Year 6 that would feed through in September 2024, seconded classrooms, Ms Coxon had completed counsellor accredited qualification, more parents requesting children to be assessed and interventions in place for Phonics and Speech and Language.

13. **Pupil Premium**

The link governor was scheduling a meeting.

14. **Staffing Update**
The Deputy Headteacher noted that there were two teaching vacancies being advertised.
15. **Finance Update** (previously circulated)
There were no questions on the reports.
16. **Community**
There was no update to report.
17. **York High Families**
The link governor noted the need to consider the approach as it had been difficult to engage the group.
18. **School Policies**
Curriculum Policy (previously circulated)
Resolution: Governors approved the Curriculum Policy.
Assessment and Feedback Policy (previously circulated)
Resolution: Governors approved the Assessment and Feedback Policy.
19. **MAT Business**
There was no update to report.
20. **Any Other Business**
There were no items for discussion.
21. **Future Meeting Dates**
Tuesday 7th May 2024 – 6pm
Thursday 11th July 2024 – 6pm

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Approved at LGB on 7th May 2024

Approval

<u>ACTION POINTS</u>				
<u>From the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on 19th March 2024</u>				
	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1.	Governors to complete Child Protection in Education training.	9 (05.12.23)	Amanda Crouch Ian Savage	Jan 2024
2.	Start a parent governor election process.	7	Headteacher	April 2024

May meeting:

Checkpoint Data
SIP Update
T&L Link Governor

Future meeting:

Student Wellbeing Leaders