



Minutes of the meeting of the Secondary Local Board
of Hessle Academy
Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 5.30pm



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures

PRESENT:

Mr M Benson (Chair, MB), Mr G Burnett (GB), Mr I Frankish (IF), Mr V Groak (Headteacher, VG), Mr A Haynes (AH), Mrs E Kenny (EK), Mr R Lambert (RL), Mrs H Marshall (HM) and Mr K Nicholson (KN)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Anderson (Assistant Head, JA), Mr A Chapman (Deputy Head, AC), Mr S Jarman (Assistant Head, SJ), Ms S Laud (Holderness staff governor, SL), Mrs J Meir (Assistant Head, JM), Mrs L Price (Deputy Head, LP), Mr C Sinclair (Assistant Head, CS), Mrs G Stafford (Governance Professional, GS), Mr D Willson (Associate SLT / Head of Maths, DWi)

Throughout these minutes a question is indicated by Q followed by the initials of the questioner and a comment is marked by C.

62 WELCOME

MB opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the final meeting of the academic year. S Laud (staff governor from Holderness Academy) was in attendance to observe the meeting.

GS updated the Board that N Gaddu had resigned from the Board. K Nicholson stated that he has decided to step down due to work commitments. KN had been a valuable member of the Board for 5 years and was thanked for all he had done: in meetings and at school events and link visits.

J Meir informed the Board that she would no longer attend LGB meetings. JM was thanked for her contribution over many years.

63 APOLOGIES

None

64 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made specific to this meeting.

65 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

66 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

66.1 GS to follow up with N Gaddu as to the reason for her absence -NG had since resigned

66.2 All links must complete a visit and report form before the next meeting – partially complete – 3 Link visits had been completed – Careers, PP and SEND

66.3 A Haynes to complete the Cyber Security training module ASAP - complete

67 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

- Improved attainment expected at GCSE and A Level
- Improvement in attendance and behaviour seen this term
- The Enhanced Resource Provision (ERP) will open in September 2024
- Fully staffed for September
- Following the ungraded Ofsted inspection in April, Hessle High School and Penshurst Primary School continues to be a good school.
- Top 2 risks:
 - Leadership Capacity
 - Declining Sixth Form numbers for the Consortium
- Staff survey – 96% staff felt supported and 92% would recommend the school as a good place to work
- A three-year development plan has been devised to get the school to outstanding. There are 5 key priorities:
 - Continue to improve attendance of all year groups
 - Improve and sustain outcomes in KS4 / 5 at least in line with national averages
 - Continue to develop positive behaviours across school
 - Continue to develop SEND provision
 - Develop leadership and management at all levels

C: (MB) Congratulations on the outcome of the Ofsted visit - take pride in your achievements; it was a fantastic outcome, well done all.

VG: Thank you. We have worked to put together a development plan that focuses on five priorities to move the school forward. It would be good if there was a Link Governor for each priority.

Q: (MB) Absolutely – we will allocate the Link positions at the September meeting. Thank you for the staff survey results, but can I ask that next time it is presented in an easy to interpret way such as graphs?

C: (IF) Please can you expand on the new library?

VG: It has moved to a more prominent position on the first floor. New books have been purchased along with the one hundred books in the Hessle Cannon – 100 books that every student should read before they leave school.

AC: We also have a display of primary books so students can read to their younger siblings.

Q: (MB) Do we have everything we need for the opening of the Enhanced Resource Provision?

VG: Yes, but we could not recruit an ERP Manager so have recruited an experienced teacher.

JA: We will start with 8 students in the Provision in September, there is capacity for 10.

Q: (IF) You currently have 9 staff following National Professional Qualifications – do you have a target for how many should undertake this CPD?

LP: It's more about who puts themselves forward and the capacity to cover external days.

Q: (IF) Are there any qualifications you would like to offer to staff that you currently do not?

JA: There is a new NPQ for SEN which would be really useful.

Q: (AH) How did the Year 10 conduct themselves during their mocks?

JM: The mocks were held over 2 weeks in the Sports Hall. They went well; we are still gathering the data and will present this at the next meeting.

Q: (AH) I have heard that students on higher papers did not get the full allotted time to complete their exams and felt anxious about this.

JM: The first set of mocks have to fit into the school day and any students that had shortened time for their exams will have this taken into account. It is better to experience taking the exams

in the Sports Hall rather than in the classroom for a one-hour slot. The next mocks in November will not be cut short.

C: (KN) The Year 10 students I chatted to at the Aspirational Dinner felt their exams went well.

CS: The conduct was also very good.

Q: (LK) Do you gather feedback of how the exams went from the Year 11?

JM: Just before their final exams we ask what worked well and what could be done better.

C: (LK) I have heard that some felt that they were burnt out with the number of exams.

JM: Those doing separate sciences have a large number of exams but now with the reduced options they have one less subject to revise.

ACTION: Link positions to be aligned to the five new development priorities

ACTION: Staff survey results to be presented in graph form

68 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR REPORT

68.1 Attendance

- Overall attendance is 90.6% (at the last meeting in April it was 91.7%)
- Attendance in Year 9 and 10 continues to be below national for their year groups
- Pupil premium attendance is 84.6%, compared to non-PP at 92.6%
- SEND support attendance is 87.7%, compared to non- SEND at 91.4%
- Boys' attendance is higher than girls' and further student voice will be undertaken to understand more the reasons behind this
- Data of attendance summer term 2023 against summer term 2024 was shared showing an increase in attendance in year's 8, 9, 10 and 11
- Severe absence (<50% attendance) is heavily impacting on attendance in Year's 9 and 10
- Attendance has also been impacted by term time holidays

AC: We are looking to get Year 9 more engaged and investigating having a Year 9 trip at the end of the summer term to try to dissuade term time holidays. There is also a concern around Year 7 attendance dropping off.

MB: Parents do not value education in Year 7 as much as other years. We need to take this message back to primaries during transition. I am afraid that some parents are choosing holidays over education – it is an attitude problem.

AC: We see attendance drop on Fridays with families going away or just not sending their child into school. We have had 2 attendance reviews and also Ofsted were happy with our strategies. We always look to adapt what we are doing.

Q: (MB) The table detailing support given – are you able to rank the tools as to how they impact on attendance?

VG: We basically need more resource. We wanted another Attendance Manager but did not have the funds. The 3 secondaries in the Trust with the highest persistent and severe absence are improving the least with overall attendance.

Q: (MB) Was your proposal for an additional Attendance Manager considered centrally? Could you not go back and ask for a manager to work between those 3 secondaries?

VG: We have already proposed this – we have been told that the feasibility will be checked.

MB requested that overall attendance per secondary school over the last 3 years was shared at the next meeting

ACTION: Overall attendance per Trust secondary school over the last 3 years to be shared at the next meeting

68.2 Behaviour

- To date, 91 children have had 213 fixed term suspensions, totalling 469 days. This is a 15% reduction in number of suspensions year on year
- Main concern is around repeat offenders in Year 10 with 34 students in Year 10 having 77 suspensions
- Number of suspensions in Year 7 and 8 remains low
- Removals are 4% down on last year
- There have been two permanent exclusions
- 14 students have gone to elective home education
- 4 students are receiving home tuition (organised by the LA)
- Students of concern with complex needs are supported including managed moves and onsite provision, several are on part time timetables or supported through SMASH, Tigers Trust, Mable Therapy etc. 301 students have been supported since September 2023 by these external agencies.

CS: *Ofsted commented on a calm learning environment. Suspensions have reduced by around 11% from last year. We are working on Year 9 and 10. There is a new Head of Year in place in Year 10. We continue to use off site direction and have sent 43 students to other schools and supported 42 students from other schools. We are also moving to develop our pastoral centre called ARK (Aspiration, Resilience, Kindness) as external resources are too stretched so we are putting in more internal support.*

Q: (MB) *301 students have been supported by one or more support strategies. Are any of more value than another? 61 students in Year 8 use Tigers Trust – is this good value?*

CS: *Yes, it is designed for the younger ones. It would be very difficult to measure the impact of each strategy in isolation.*

Q: (IF) *Do you measure the effectiveness of a managed move?*

CS: *The students have to pass an off-site direction assessment – they have to get to 12 weeks to pass. It is not successful for all, but for many a short sharp shock works and is effective.*

Q: (IF) *Of the 14 that have chosen home education – are they in KS3 or 4?*

VG: *Both – there are even some in Year 11.*

69 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

- There are currently 7 CLA (Children Looked After)
- 12 students have a Child in Need Plan and 2 Child Protection cases
- 61 Operation Encompass notifications for 35 families from September 2023
- 1064 logs for concern have been made since September 2023. The number of logs is high in Year 9 due to some significant safeguarding concerns
- There has been an increase in conflicting behaviours in Year 8
- There have been 18 referrals to Early Help
- Student voice shows that although sexualised language is not common, when it is reported it is felt that it is not dealt with well

AC: *We are carrying out student voice around the feeling that sexualised language is not dealt with well and are going back to those that have stated they do not feel it has been dealt with well.*

Q: (MB) *So you know who the students are that have reported it?*

AC: *Yes*

Q: (KN) *How do students feel about being approached if they felt they could not report an incident or they feel it was not dealt with?*

AC: *We are sensitive and offer a member of the female team if they would prefer.*

Q: (RL) *Do children understand that you know this level of detail? It would be worth running an anonymous survey and see if you get the same results.*

MB: The problem is, if it was anonymous we cannot control the number of responses per student so the data could be skewed.

RL: The scale of the problem may be much higher if you were to use an anonymous survey.

AC: I really believe that this is not as big an issue as at other schools. 94% learners felt that they had a member of staff they could approach with any concerns.

Q: (KN) Are you picking up the other 6%?

AC: Yes.

C: (AC) I am concerned that we have not had any Operation Encompass alerts over the Euros. This is most unusual, so I have raised it with the Safeguarding in Education team.

70 GOVERNOR LINK VISITS

There have been 3 governor visits since the last meeting:

22 May 2024 – Enterprise Day visit -Kallum Nicholson

6 June 2024 – PP link visit – L Kenny

6 June 2024 – SEND Link visit – L Kenny

MB thanked the governors for their visits and reports.

71 POLICIES TO REVIEW

GS explained that a Trust wide Behaviour Policy had been approved by the Trust Board last night. Each school has specific school procedures. These have been forwarded to governors for information only.

72 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday 24 September 2024, 5.30pm

73 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

74 ACTION POINTS

74.1 ACTION: Link positions to be aligned to the five new development priorities (minute 67)

74.2 ACTION: Staff survey results to be presented in graph form (minute 67)

74.3 ACTION: Overall attendance per Trust secondary school over the last 3 years to be shared at the next meeting (minute 68.1)

MB thanked the staff for their attendance and all they have done this academic year. Part A closed at 6.40pm and governors stayed to carry out a self-review.

