

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 21 September 2021
 Time: 16.30 Meeting
 Venue: Didsbury High School – Conference room

Clerk: M Hill
 Present: S Williamson (Vice-Chair), J Game, D Woolley, K Houghton

Action	Initials	Item
Agenda Code of Conduct at next meeting	MH	1
Review SCR Annually	JG	1
Arrange to attend Exclusion panel training	All	1
Arrange link governor visits	All	1
Circulate Key Points of Trust Development Plan	DW	2
Report details of improvement spending	DW	3
Attend Ofsted Inspection training when offered	All	4

Agenda – Part 1				
Category	Item	Notes	Action	
1	Governance Arrangements	Apologies	The clerk read apologies from P Clements, M Kara-Mohamed and S Wane All other members were in attendance throughout. SWi welcomed all and opened the meeting.	
		Training	The floor was offered to DW who introduced the Laurus Institute as the professional learning offer of the Trust. This is accessible to all staff and Governors. DW also noted that Ofsted Training will be arranged as, when there is an inspection, governors will be invited to speak with inspectors. This training is in the pipeline and will be confirmed when available.	
		AOB items		
		Register of interests	Governors confirmed the information contained in the Register was correct. JG expressed thanks to Didsbury High School for supporting The Bread and Butter Thing as one of the House charities this year.	
		Code of Conduct	All member present noted and agreed to the Code of Conduct. Roll item to next meeting for those not present.	Clerk
	Part 1 Minutes	The previous minutes were approved with the following actions rolled on:		

	Safeguarding Governor to review the Single Central Record annually.	ACM1 annually
	Exclusion Panel Training to be arranged	All
Membership: Recruitment Update/ Succession Planning	DW confirmed that, as Covid regulations are now less restrictive, link governors are welcome to come into school and meet with their links as appropriate. Curriculum links to be looked at in the future.	All
Scheme of Delegation	No material changes to note.	
Trust Board Update	The contents of the update were noted.	

2	School Performance & Accountability	Strategy and Development Plan, including Strategic Priorities and Critical Success Factors (school level)	<p>DW presented the School Development Plan. JG asked how this linked to the Trust Development plan and who would have oversight of what would affect governors. DW to circulate key points.</p> <p>DW explained the 360 review process.</p> <p>JG noted an effective governor must maintain the right balance to provide effective oversight, and asked how staff felt about working with link governors. MH reported that as a school contact, she had welcomed the input of the link governor as a critical friend. DW noted it was important for governors to question and ensure accountability.</p> <p>JG questioned if the process was better aligned in a cascade? DW noted the SEF is written with Ofsted in mind, the SDP is written from a school perspective, then the DDPs link into the departments to ensure they are meeting their targets. KW noted that there are DDPs for not only the curriculum departments, but also for specific key areas such as House, SEND and Pastoral.</p> <p>JG asked about the timescales involved. DW noted that, Academic Achievement aside, they are all run on an annual basis. JG asked about the cycle of feedback. KH explained there are two points in the year where departments Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rate progress and list priorities. The senior leadership team do the same, if any targets are missed they then feed into the next year's strategy. DW noted that this cycle is the same with staff performance management.</p> <p>SWI noted that we need to focus on the red content, and challenge if everything is really green. DW clarified that the RAG system is modelled on CHHS, we can provide a RAGGED version of the SDP. KH noted that the SDP doesn't necessarily reference behaviour targets yet these are a key area for feedback. SWI asked how the governors would like to see this information reflected. JG asked that the current progress of the SDP be reflected in the Key Points of the Heads Report. This is an action for the ACM3 in Spring.</p>	DW
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3	Governor Monitoring	Finance Update	<p>The management accounts were noted. JG noted that the budget was better than expected. DW explained that the school receives additional funding as a Manchester school and in the top 30% deprived areas. SWi asked about the Trust policy on reserves, DW explained the financial structure. We are currently investing in the building, numeracy and literacy.</p> <p>DW outlined that, as students progress from KS3 to KS4 and beyond, resources become less cost effective due to specialism.</p> <p>JG asked about the demographic of the new cohort. KH advised the distance criteria had shrunk to 0.897 miles. The SEND tariff attached to this year group is smaller than in previous years and there is some concern that, due to lockdown, the SEND needs of some year 8 students are not fully recognised. Staff are working to resolve this.</p> <p>DW noted that WDCE primary will have their first year 6 cohort this year.</p> <p>DW to report on improvement spending and to provide some insight into energy costs, teacher ratios.</p>	DW
		Governor Self Review of Impact	To be reviewed at the next meeting	
4	Governor Development	Training Governor Verbal Update	<p>DW advised that mandatory training will be signposted and the key focus training will be organic.</p> <p>Ofsted training is due to be delivered, representatives from each governing body will be invited to this.</p>	DW
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder engagement	<p>DW reported that the local area had been very busy at pick up recently. We are working with families to encourage students to walk or cycle home. Staff are on duty locally the local councillors have taken a pragmatic approach.</p> <p>Each House has selected a local charity to support this year, SWi enquired how they had been selected, KH advised that students voted as form groups.</p> <p>SWi asked how positive news like this is shared. KH advised through our social media channels and the SDP.</p>	

	AOB		<p>KH explained the Trust wide approach to gifted and talented provision. There are two main groups of students; Thinking Works and Thinking Matters. These students are identified through prior attainment and teacher assessment, we look at skills such as critical thinking that aren't as widely addressed in the curriculum. There is an academic enhancement role in school running the Apertura programme, this is an academic co-ordinator to push all students to their very best. Additionally pupil premium funding is used in this area.</p> <p>There are new literacy and numeracy co-ordinators in school.</p> <p>An update was provided regarding the roll out of the Covid Vaccine in school.</p> <p>GCSE plans were discussed, including the additional Wednesday afternoon provision which will provide an extra option group.</p> <p>There has been significant wider interest from the community for Sixth Form provision. Additionally LCH will not extend to Sixth form. It's likely Sixth form will open in 2023 to a reduced cohort. The entry requirements will be six GCSE level 6 grades. The Sixth form will be an academic A-Level/Ebacc provision to meet local need.</p>	
	Meeting Dates:	<p>21.09.2021</p> <p>07.12.2021</p> <p>08.03.2022</p> <p>14.06.2022</p>		

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes	
	Governors were introduced to the Laurus Institute
	Development plans at all levels where explored
	Funding and growth plans were discussed