



St Laurence School Academy Trust

Full Governing Board meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 February 2023 at the school

Governors present: I Maher Roberts (chair), K Kilgallen, S Cooper, P Lambert, L Ash, M Smith, T Chatfield, M Peters, M Dooley, M Smith, A Craddock, A Ensom, L Wicks, D Roberts

Apologies J Abecassis, M Lee, C Hamilton

Not present M Dooley

Governors were welcomed to the meeting.

17/22 [Minutes](#) of previous meeting 12 12 22, actions and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed for accuracy and virtually signed-off.

18/22 [Head's report](#)

Further comments, on staffing: two example of failure to recruit locally were shared, for information; the HoD geography position is internal as the person has been in post for a year, temporarily; the staffing intentions form had been circulated, two discussions with staff had resulted; governors' hand-written thank you cards were very well received.

An upgrade to the school's website and a rebranding will be from September, to include content from the Ofsted, SIAMS and Challenge Partners reviews.

The result of the CP review was positive as it covered wider aspects of the school than the Ofsted inspection had. Art, graphics, photography, social science, PE, RE, drama and business studies had been reviewed. These are termed the 'open bucket' subjects for Progress 8 statistics. For the previous CP review, the school was described as 'Leading' with the strength of the English and science teams and a background of the 2019 data. Now, it was 'effective' across the board. A new team of 5 CP reviewers had been in school and the areas for development would be published in the final report.

Condition Improvement Fund bid update. This is the third and final time of presentation and preparations have been made for implementation from July, irrespective of the success of this external source of funds.

Strike action, 51 staff went on strike, 3 took childcare days and 18 attended work. 62 staff are in the NEU and there has been movement to this union over the period of the strike action ballot process and after. There has been picketing, with limited other interruptions.

For the next strike days, the plan is to work with the unions represented at the school, a week's notice of the intention to strike was the pattern last time. An external company would work with year 11 on

study skills on 2nd March, given that the timetable cannot be staffed. For 15 / 16th March, it is possible that strike numbers will reduce but there was a plan given that the mock English / maths GCSE exams were scheduled for that week. To maximise lesson time, the exams would be sat on the strike days. The ideas have been shared with the union reps, the school is checking the position of marking the exams. Good relations are key and the school had come out well in public responses. There were a range of comments from parents. There were 40 vulnerable students, 7 attended and this was likely to rise.

Question, with the year 11 priority, will 7-10 be at home?

R – it depends on staffing, the best way to learn is online given the variability of timetable cover. Vulnerable and exams students are the priority.

Question, is study skills work usual for this time of year?

R – this has been a 2-year existing programme, it is £850 for the day.

19/22 MAT discussion update [1](#) [2](#)

Further comments, this is the first draft of the MOU, a summary by the consultant of the working conference of Heads and Chairs; on Tuesday 21 February, there would be a meeting of governors and SLTs, this to result in a further iteration for discussion.

The discussion of the FGB at this point was minuted as a confidential item.

Details of 21 Feb meeting to be circulated.

20/22 Ofsted inspection [report](#) update

Further comments, this, combined with the SIAMS report and the Challenge Partners review would be used to review the SDP.

21/22 Committee minutes & update from Chairs

Standards (SC)

FFE (KK), no meeting this term, Estate strategy sprint meeting (10 February, 12-4pm)

C&E (PL), including an update on Safeguarding (LA)

(note that Strategy minutes are also in the folder)

Further comments,

Standards, RE presentation in governor folder; year 8 data, there was a context of Covid learning in primary years, this may account for the Pupil Premium gap in achievement, there was a decline in English and maths progress, attendance was a concern; year 11, mock data, there had been an improvement from year 10 to 11, except, maths, drama, PE, P&E

FFE, the Estate strategy sprint meeting is on Friday 10th, sustainability, the green agenda and making further steps to progress the facilities of the school made this a good time to look at the infrastructure to support learning.

Question, how does this fit with the MAT?

R – this is not linked as the MAT work takes at least a year and the campus plan needs costing and resourcing.

Comment, there are different types of funding based on student numbers and school building development funds, even when within the MAT.

C&E, safeguarding reporting – since September, there have been 672 myConcern reports, this is strong reporting from staff and there is triage work to identify issues; the main categories – online content access; bullying; mental health.

Comment, parents are not always concerned when contacted about inappropriate mobile device access to the internet.

Anti-bullying update, apt due to peak in myConcern, Ofsted note, etc; educating staff has been positive; measures to tackle bullying and support for staff and students were detailed. Policy updates were small items of clarification in response to identified needs.

There had been work for online safety week and the mental health and wellbeing fortnight. Governors would be invited to an after-school event / fayre (up to 20 organisations to attend), LBR organising.

Anthony Bennett, a motivational speaker had presented to all students and at the 6th form presentation evening.

22/22 School policies agreed by committee this term.

[Behaviour in School](#), [Anti-bullying](#)

23/22 Governing Body matters

Membership, there was note of nominations received. From April, there will be 3 vacancies for SLSAT nominees, another governor could be co-opted

Training, note of options for governors. This is centres on the Wiltshire Governance Conference, 14-16 March, online. Booking via Right Choice.

AOB, term 3 Connect is to be issued. Three staff lead on the student journalism, graphical presentation and layout with significant student leadership on content. The Alumni section is growing as a result of the magazine.

The meeting closed at 1820.