

Batley Multi Academy Trust
Meeting of the Batley Girls' High School Local Governing Body
Held at the School of Thursday 21 June at 6.00pm

Part A

Present: Pamela Pickles (Chair) Ahmed Vali (Vice-Chair), Julie Haigh, Stephanie Holt, , Jean May, Ebrahim Ravat, Michelle Barker, Janice O'Hanlon, Sajid Ghani, Carole Sallery

In Attendance: Alan Brown, Finance Director; David Cooper. Co-Head; Karen Sturgeon, Clerk

700. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed Governors to the meeting and thanked Ahmed Vali for taking over as Chair whilst she had been away.

701. To confirm protocols on Apologies for Absence and Consent

Governors agreed to the usual protocol regarding apologies for absence with consent.

Apologies have been received from Jonathan Barber and Samera Khalil with consent.

702. Representation

There were no matters of representation.

703. Minutes of Meetings – Batley Girls' Local Governing Body – 22 March 2018

IT WAS AGREED by Governors that the minutes should be approved as a true record.

704. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

705. Policies for Approval

➤ **Attendance Policy**

This policy had been circulated in advance and **IT WAS AGREED** that it should be approved.

706. Finance Update

Alan spoke to this item. He asked if Governors were happy to receive the reports in the format produced. The Chair said that the reports were comprehensive and thanked Alan for his hard work and the well written report.

Alan stated that we were currently projecting an in-year surplus of at least £300,000 to carry forward into 2018/2019 and that the overall school budgets for expenditure and income are on profile, although within the different budget headings some are over and some are under profile.

We are currently overachieving against the original budget of "Other Grants". A Governor asked why this was. Alan explained that we had achieved additional income from the DfE due to MAT led activities and that we had been successful in securing funding from other bids.

Salary expenditure for Agency Supply and Special Intervention Staffing Costs (to fund revision sessions) are significantly less than budgeted and this stage. A Governor asked if the current sickness monitoring procedures had a factor in this. Alan couldn't confirm that it had, but it was a possibility. The Chair stated that being under on salary expenditure was fantastic.

Governors were asked to note the 2017/2018 budget update.

We provided the ESFA with a Post 16 funding business case after seeing a reduction in our funding. We were successful in our appeal and have received £46,000 of additional funding. We used the services of an expert and are proposing to use this service going forward.

A Governor asked if there was an expectation to appeal. DC stated that there was not. However, Post 16 funding was incredibly complex and was currently going through significant change. The expert we used had currently managed to obtain an extra £2,000,000 of funding across a number of schools by appealing.

Governors were asked to note the information provided in the budget report for 2018/19, which included a projected surplus, at this stage, of £101,000 and recommend that the Board of Trustees Finance & Resources Committee approve the Batley Girls' High School Budget for 2018/2019 at the meeting on the 21st June 2018.

The Governors **AGREED** to recommend the budget to the Board of Trustees' Finance and Resources Committee approval.

Alan said that the future years' position may change due to the National Funding Formula. Works were being undertaken to make the site secure. A Governor asked what was being done, Alan stated that gates with card readers were being installed. Alan stated that the school was considering the purchase of a new minibus, due the age and reliability of the current one.

A Governor asked when was the last time we reviewed our banking arrangements to make sure we are getting a better return on our investments and looked at the balances we hold on our current account. Alan responded by saying that we invested money in a number of long-term fixed rate deposits. The rates are fixed rate for 12 months, like savings accounts. £1,000,000 was in long term investments with one bank and £1,200,000 with another.

Another Governor asked if we could look at investment options for the surplus. Alan agreed that we could look at other investment options.

707. Co-Heads' Report

Outcomes & Attendance Spring 2018

Governors were asked to note the Outcomes and Attendance reports.

Julie explained that this was a less able cohort than in previous years, but predictions are in line with last year. The disadvantage gap is looking good at the moment.

Teaching and Learning

We are thrilled that Batley Girls' High School was awarded Teaching School status in May 2018. We are one of over 40 schools that has been selected to become a national teaching school in the latest recruitment round, taking a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession.

In addition to this, our Co-Head, Julie Haigh, has secured National Leader of Education status (NLE). National leaders of education use their knowledge and experience to provide additional leadership capability in other schools in need of support. This is a massive opportunity for development.

The Chair congratulated Julie on behalf of the Governing body on being given such a prestigious award.

Introduced in 2011, teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide high quality school-led initial teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career. This new development will build on the partnership work and school to school support that both Upper Batley High School and Batley Girls' High School already offer.

Julie told the board that we had already been asked to support a school in South Kirklees and we can choose which areas of expertise we need to provide the right level of support.

It was asked how this would impact on current staff and students. Julie explained that we have built capacity within the MAT and that supporting other schools will generate income.

Teaching schools raise standards, especially in schools in challenging circumstances, and ensure that the most talented school leaders are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers.

Communication

Communication at all levels continues to be a key focus for us. We continue to write to all parents every half-term with the latest focus being on Eid, the work of the BBEST Hub and our absence reporting procedure and pastoral support systems. Celebrating success is also key and we had a bumper newsletter edition for the Spring term, while our Co-Heads Celebrations go from strength to strength with a record turnout from parent's at the most recent event in May. We have also now finalised our article for the Parliamentary Review and this will be published at the start of September.

Partnership work

➤ Carry My Story

We are delighted with the success of the Carry My Story project this year and are especially pleased that it will continue as part of our 6th form enrichment offer next year. The project has enabled us to promote embedded links with our primary partner (Windmill) and has led to additional opportunities through the Linking Project. The final session for this cycle will take place at the Al Hikmah Centre on the 21st of June and we are very much looking forward to this event. Our thanks to Charlotte King, Diane Auty and Andrew Dresser for leading on this project.

➤ Solutions Not Sides

In the Spring term, we welcomed Solutions Not Sides to Batley Girls' High School. The organisation focus on a non-partisan attitude towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and promotes a respect of the human rights of all Palestinians and Israelis, a non-judgemental approach to learning about the complexity of narratives and view points, and a rejection of simplistic blame language, racism.

The workshops encouraged students to find a win-win scenario for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and we were delighted with the maturity and critical thinking skills of our students during the day. We're thrilled to be welcoming Solutions Not Sides back to school for our Extended Learning Day in July 2018.

➤ Batley Food Bank

We were disheartened to learn that Batley Food Bank was in financial difficulty this Spring. As a result, we have set up a monetary donation to the Food Bank, and set up a trolley in reception where students and staff can donate any items for the Food Bank.

➤ Change Project

On 20 April, Batley Girls' High School and Upper Batley High School hosted a Science Fair and invited primary schools taking part in the project for a day of science experiments.

The Change Exhibition will open at Batley Art Gallery on 2 July and has been created by over 300 pupils in Batley. The exhibition will celebrate how art and science can work together to create amazing results, and will showcase the imaginative work created in workshops across the area. The exhibition will run until 15 September 2018.

➤ BEIS

The school continues to develop its relationship with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and is running a visit to the Department's base in London on Friday 29th June. This is part of the ongoing Parents and Daughters Together work and will include 40 students from years 9-12. The focus of the visit will be on access to careers in the Civil Service.

➤ First Give

Next term, we'll be welcoming First Give to our PSHCE curriculum for Years 9 and 12. First Give work in partnership with secondary schools across the country to help young people give their time, tenacity and talents in order to improve their local communities. We're thrilled that we will be the first school in Yorkshire to run the First Give programme.

From September, Years 9 and 12 will identify social issues in the Batley and Birstall area and engage with local charities which address them. The students will then have the opportunity to compete for £1,000 of grant money to give to their chosen charity. Teams do this by advocating for their charity through presentations, talks and discussions in a school competition.

➤ **Enactus**

We are delighted to have been asked to be one of the first three schools in Yorkshire to launch Enactus. This is an enquiry-based social enterprise activity which to this point has only been available to University students. DC/IA have been part of a working party to develop the programme for secondary school students and we envisage it being part of our 6th form enrichment/Student Leadership offer from September 2018.

Celebration

We received an overwhelming response to our call-out for nominees for our Co-Head Celebration, therefore at the Co-Head's Celebration on 25 May we congratulated those students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who have made an outstanding contribution to the school and the wider community.

We'll be holding a further Co-Head's Celebration in the final half term to celebrate those in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who have been vital to the life of our school and the local area.

Strategy

Staffing

➤ **New permanent appointments**

Mehmoona Darr - Casual Art Technician
Sauda Ravat - LTS
Laura Stainburn - Cleaner
Margaret Norwell - Cleaner
Kate Barker - Casual Invigilator
Steven Horsfall - Casual Invigilator
Lyndsay Jephson - Casual Invigilator
Mel Keith - Casual Pastoral Manager
Fatema Mayet - Casual Invigilator
Elizabeth Payne - Casual Invigilator
Rosalinde Smith - Casual Invigilator
Reece Smith - Casual Invigilator
Steven Burgees - English Teacher (maternity cover)
Philippa Andrews - English Teacher (temporary)
Suzannah Spencer - Teacher of History
Kimberley Jones - Art Teacher (Maternity Cover)
David Rees - Teacher of English (temporary)
Jowairiyya Basser - Teacher of English (temporary)

➤ **Leavers**

Natalie Ingham - Teacher of English

Nicole Ison - Counsellor
Shenaz Daji - Lunchtime Supervisor
Sauda Ravat - Lunchtime Supervisor
Samheea Akudi - Sixth Form Pastoral Manager

The Chair asked why there was such a big discrepancy between teaching and associate staff attendance. Julie explained that this was due to a number of long term illnesses and that sickness monitoring was currently more robust than it previously had been.

708. Strategic Focus

School Development Plan – Governor's in school.

Julie introduced the School Development Plan and asked Governor's to look at page 2. This is the "at a glance" status and is rag rated.

Governors were then asked to look at page 5, item number 2.

The Chair explained that this is where, as Governors we need to be accountable.

Governors were asked to make an appointment to come into school and visit their curriculum area.

All Governors were given a "Governor Visit Form". It was explained that this was good practice and whilst it may be difficult to fully complete the form, this is the evidence needed to hold curriculum areas to account and be a critical friend. David explained that as a school we have a very open culture and that curriculum areas would welcome the visits.

Stephanie Holt said that she had been into her allocated curriculum area. She made an appointment and approached the area as an informal chat. She had also asked to observe a KS3 and KS4 lesson. Stephanie asked what the role should be.

Julie said that Governors should email their contact and ask for the Team Development Plan and ask what you like to me would look at.

Contact details for each Curriculum area were handed out.

Julie explained that Trustees have their own responsibilities.

It was agreed that all Governors would be able to access the NGA online training and that the details would be sent out by the Clerk after the meeting. It was also agreed that all Batley Girls' High School CPD sessions would be available to Governors.

Governors were also given a list of all training provided by Kirklees Council for school governors for the next twelve months. Governors were asked to fill in their CPD forms before the end of the meeting. These would then be booked by the CPD coordinator.

An online skills audit has been shared with all Governors, could this please be completed as soon as possible.

Updates:

We are currently working with Newsome High School in the capacity of JCH as NLE and as National Support School. This work will be sponsored by the Local Education Authority and Julie will commission the support required. Much of this will be from BMAT colleagues. July will be a key month for activity as staff have greater capacity. The work will generate additional funding for those involved.

➤ Whole School Wellbeing

Following the interim review of Wellbeing provision conducted by CAMHS there will be a Wellbeing Strategy Group meeting on Tuesday 25th June to plan the strategy for the school moving forwards. This will involve key school stakeholders in addition to external partners (CAMHS and Leeds Carnegie representation).

We are also progressing the plans to meet the Schools Mental Health Award criteria following our initial review and coaching conversation. This is now being progressed through the Governors Wellbeing Working Party and key strategic groups in school.

➤ Dialogue for Learning

As part of our ongoing Dialogical Learning group we are launching the Journey's Project on the 27th June working with Leeds Beckett University, York University and Lawnswood School. This is an exciting project involving our students from all year groups and will give us an opportunity to showcase some of the ongoing work around dialogue.

➤ Careers

We continue to develop our careers work as part of our response to the Gatsby benchmarks. As part of our work with the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and through our various careers networks we have been invited to contribute, as Lead School, to the Kirklees bid for one of the national Careers Hubs. DC attended an interview with LEP partners at the Careers and Enterprise Council on 13th June and we hope to find out shortly whether the bid has been successful. We have also submitted a bid for the Personal Guidance Fund in collaboration with five partners (Airedale, Castleford Academy, Horizon Community College, Minsthorpe and Upper Batley). If this is successful it will enable us to further enhance our careers work through the development of key staff.

David Cooper spoke to this item. The bid process was very rigorous and we are hoping to find out whether we have been successful by the end of June. If we are successful we will be leading careers provision across Kirklees and will shape strategy for the future.

A Governor asked if we would need extra physical spaces and resources for this. David explained that this was currently in the process of being looked at along with the Gatsby benchmark.

➤ Extended Learning Days

TOGETHER are currently planning our Learning from Conflict - Keeping the Peace Extended Learning Day for 16 July. Building on the themes of More in Common and Hope not Hate, the day will include visitors from Solutions Not Sides who will lead tailored

workshops for Years 7 – 10. The Art Department will lead on creating a creative art activity for all year groups, Humanities will create a debating activity on the politics and ethics of war, and we will be joined by refugee and asylum-seeking women who will speak to the students about their experience of conflict.

We're looking forward to an enriching and thought-provoking day, and hope the students come away with a broader and empathetic understanding of conflict resolution.

709. Government Engagement and Communication

➤ [Governors Link Work](#)

Governors had attended various Curriculum areas.

710. Safeguarding

Jean May introduced the new paperwork that would be presented to governors. This was being used so that a consistent format was developed for both Trustee and Governing bodies.

Jean had visited the SEN department and was welcomed warmly by all staff. She attended the Daisy Club coffee morning and found this really emotional.

It was clear that staff are very proud of all the children and were very receptive to her visit to the department.

711. Any Other Business

712. [Agenda, Minutes and Related Papers](#)

IT WAS DETERMINED that within the Co-Heads' Report at item 707, the 'Outcomes' section, together with the supporting HR documentation entitled 'Sickness Statistics' for the section 'Summary of Staffing Updates', should form Part B owing to reasons of confidentiality and therefore be excluded from the copy to be made available at the school, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

