

Meeting of the Batley Girls' High School Local Governing Body

Held at the School on Thursday 22 March 2018 at 6.30pm

Part A

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

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

620. **Chair's Welcome**

Ahmed Vali (Vice-Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

621. **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 Pam Pickles (Chair), Jonathan Barber, and Samera Khalil.

622. **Representation**

Nothing to declare

623. **Finance Update**

Alan spoke to this item. The Income and Expenditure report had been circulated in advance.

A Governor asked why the supply teaching staff spend was only currently £2,500. It was explained that we had our internal cover supervisors and that this resource was currently working well, meaning little external supply had been bought in.

At the last meeting there was an update on the catering contract for both BGHS and UBHS that was re-tendered. After careful deliberation, the contract was awarded to Absolutely Catering.

A Governor asked what made this company stand out. AB explained the Company's presentation was not just about selling. They were genuinely excited about what they could do. Reviews have been built into the contract and both schools are comfortable with the decision. It was asked how long the contract was for. The contract is for 5 years, but does have an exit point at 3 years.

2018-2019 Budget onwards – Document B. We have just received our funding statement for 2018/2019, however 24 students were missing. A business case was being presented to the ESFA in April. A Governor asked how this had happened. AB explained that dates had been incorrectly applied to some student courses, however this had now been rectified.

Julie thanked Alan for his work on this update.

624. Policies for Approval

- Oracy Policy
- Behaviour Policy

IT WAS AGREED by Governors to approve all the above policies.

DC said our policy had been presented at Leeds Senior Leaders and that they were impressed by the work. Strategies around Oracy within school were improving and student confidence was growing. This was evident in Student Voice. This is very important to BGHS.

625. Minutes of Meetings – Batley Girls' Local Governing Body – 18 January 2017

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

626. Matters Arising from Minutes

Non

627. Co-Heads' Report and Open Discussion

Outcomes

The government Compare Schools exam data is now published and we are, yet again, significantly above average for our excellent results for Key Stage 4. We are 5th in our group of 55 similar schools. Our GCSE results for Maths, English, Humanities, Languages and the English Baccalaureate were all also significantly above the national average. See attached sheet for current predictions.

JCH explained that 60.5% prediction of 9-4 was good at this point. The MOCK data should be more positive. The Spring Outcomes Summary was handed to Governors and they were asked to take away and read in detail.

Teaching

We are awaiting the news regarding the teaching school application. We expect to hear after the Easter holidays.

Communication

We have continued to build on our efforts to improve communication and published the second edition of "Heads Up" in November. This issue concentrated on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its implications, the creation of a new Student Reception and a Glossary of Key Educational Terms.

As Co-Heads we now also write to all parents every half-term with the latest letter (November) emphasizing the role of Parents' Forum and a reminder that non-urgent medical appointments should not be made in school time.

On November 28th we also launched our Parents and Daughters Together Pilot Initiative at Batley Town Hall. The evening was a great success with over 60 in attendance in addition to great support from school colleagues and representatives from the Local Governing Body. This project is designed to measure the impact of a high level of communication on learning and progress. We have initially sampled 45 students from Years 9-11 to take part and, if successful, we intend to roll the programme out whole-school.

A Governor has asked if the school would be able to Blog/Tweet as we could be missing opportunities to communicate with parents and the community. Mark Limbert has said that he would look at this. It was also suggested that different members of staff took the responsibility of blogging/tweeting on a rota basis. This is also something that will be looked into.

Partnership work

PREVENT

Deputy Head, Gillian Hughes from BGHS participated in the Reach study programme the focus of which was to learn more about a variety of extremist narratives and their linked counter narratives. The programme included a visit to Northern Ireland to consider how to learn from conflict. The impact of this has been a programme of collaboration with outside agencies (filmmakers, community groups, anti-extremist organisations) to consider creative ways of ensuring our young people have a voice.

The curriculum model at BGHS ensures that issues such as critical thinking, awareness of and identification of trusted sources are embedded. An annual curriculum Prevent audit is carried out which maps this. Senior leaders from BGHS have presented their model to other schools within the LA (at the invitation of the Prevent Co-ordinator).

Parliamentary Review

We are awaiting the news regarding the teaching school application. We expect to hear after the Easter holidays.

Communication

We continue to work to further improve communication through our “Head’s Up” regular updates to staff and our half-termly letters to all parents. The latest letter to parents focused on absence procedures and key contacts in school. We were also featured in the national “Schools Week” publication in February for our Question Time event which, as far as we are aware, is the only one of its kind nationally.

Partnership Work

The Together Group is re-launching on Friday 16 March. The initial work will focus on planning the Learning from Conflict Day. On Tuesday the 20th March, we hosted a Solutions not Sides event through our work with the Linking Project.

We were the only school in Kirklees to be offered this as a consequence of our excellent work on the Carry My Story initiative. The workshops included young people from Palestine and Israel and enabled our Year 12 students to engage with the historical context of the conflict with a discussion of how peaceful solutions could be developed.

This term we have been very proud of our students and their engagement with politics and world affairs. On 25 January, students attended the Holocaust Memorial Day events at the University of Huddersfield where they met with Holocaust survivor Iby Knill to compare the treatment of refugees during that time with the experience of contemporary refugees across Europe. Then in February, we welcomed Tracy Brabin MP, Baroness Pinnock, Cllr Robert Light and Professor Munro Price to the school for our third annual Question Time. The panel were joined by Batley Girls’ Student Political Ambassadors Hana Yaqoob and Hawa Patel for a lively debate on topics ranging from votes at 16 to homelessness. Both events showcased how articulate, informed and passionate our students are – and we have a feeling we may have some future campaigners in our midst. Hana and Hawa are also due to speak at the International Women’s Day event in Batley on the 24th March.

Young Carers Day

On Young Carers Day in January, students from Sixth Form to attend a screening of People Like Us at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA). A new play by Judith Johnson, the production follows the life of young carers Gemma and Tyler, and highlights the daily struggles which they face in caring for relatives. As a consequence of this initiative we are developing our Young Carers policy and embedding resources in PSHE to raise awareness of this important issue.

STEM

As well as giving an enriching school experience, we also aim to inspire our students and earlier in the Spring Term, all Year 7 pupils took part in our annual STEM Careers Event. Designed to help students understand careers relating the science, technology, engineering and maths we welcomed delegates from the Universities of Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield, various businesses and professionals working in STEM.

Change project

The 2018 Change project is now at the stage where workshops are running in schools. The additional dimension this year is the involvement of Sixth Form ambassadors as journalists and photographers. Sara Sherwood (our new PA) has a background in PR and is preparing a press pack designed to engage the national media.

Journeys Project

Through our collaboration with Dr Michalis Kakos we have been invited to participate in a major storytelling and identity initiative in collaboration with Leeds Beckett University and York St John University. This work will be developed in the summer term and will include students from all year groups with the promise of a major exhibition of work at a significant regional venue.

Batley and Spen Youth Theatre

Following on from last year's excellent production of Les Miserables we are looking forward to being part of the ongoing work of this new group. DC attended a stakeholders strategy meeting in March with a number of other partners and we look forward to this initiative going from strength to strength and providing more opportunities for our students and others from our local community.

Careers News

Developing a High Quality School and Community Careers Strategy

On Weds 31st January DC and IA delivered a careers session as part of a conference to Leeds Education Authority. The feedback from this was excellent with comments such as "their session was excellent, a lot of the schools were envious of their strategy and the staffing they had dedicated to CEIAG, their work gives us an incentive to keep on keeping on".

Celebration

The LRC and Accelerated Reading programme continue to flourish within the school and for World Book Day (we postponed our celebrations until Thursday 29th March due to the heavy snowfall) students and staff joined together to celebrate the joy of reading. To mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, staff and students alike were sorted into their Hogwarts houses and came to school decked in their magical outfits. We will also hold our third Co-Heads Lunch event during the final week of this half-term. Once again this event will recognise the marvellous contribution many of our students make to wider community initiatives.

The main aim of our work this term is to continue to embed some of the strategy we put into action in the Autumn term. This includes:

Whole School Wellbeing

Our Governor Wellbeing Working Party continues to build on the work initiated in the autumn term and we particularly look forward to working more closely with Leeds Beckett University and other key external agencies. We have now completed an initial diagnostic

as part of the LBU Schools Mental Health Award and look forward to identifying key priorities for our action plan moving forward.

Dialogue for Learning

We are working closely with an external agency called “Talk the Talk” who are running one day sessions for a group of our Year 8 and Year 12 students in order to develop their confidence and oracy. DC and DG are also auditing all the strategies which have enabled the school to develop stronger dialogue for learning as part of the preparation for the workshop we are running at the Leeds Oracy Conference.

Enhanced Communication

This is a key strategic aim and one we are continually working to improve. We continue to write to all our families for a Co-Heads update at the start of each half-term, our “Head’s Up” document for colleagues has been very well received and we are continually exploring new ways to improve communication.

A Staff Governor said that communication within school had improved.

Extended Learning Days

We are planning two extended learning days. The first will be similar to the LEARNING FROM CONFLICT-KEEPING THE PEACE day held in 2014. We will explore themes

628. Strategic Focus

Training

Governors were given lists of Learning Link modules available from the NGA. The NGA will be emailing details of passwords, etc directly to Governors.

629. Governors’ Review of Link Work in School, the Community and Training

It was confirmed that Governors with specific responsibilities wished to continue with their roles:

Pam Pickles – English
Michelle Barker – Maths
Janice O’Hanlon – MFL
Ebrahim Ravat – Science
Ahmed Vali – Attendance & Behaviour
Jean May - Safeguarding
Carole Sallery – Humanities, Parent Forum
Stephanie Holt – DT/PE
Sajid Ghani – Arts/Expressive Arts

Trustees and Governors in School, the Community and Training



A number of Governors have attended these events.

Forthcoming Events

The Clerk confirmed that an email would be sent to all Governors reminding them of these events. This is being sent by the Co-Head's PA.

630. Any Other Business

Non

631. Date of Next Meetings

TBC

632. Agenda, Minutes and Related Papers

IT WAS DETERMINED that within the Co-Heads' Report at item 627, the 'Outcomes' section, 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.