

Batley Multi Academy Trust

Meeting of the Batley Girls' High School Local Governing Body

Held at the School of Thursday 22 November 2018 at 6.00pm

Part A

Present: Present: Pamela Pickles (Chair), Julie Haigh, David Cooper, Stephanie Holt, Michelle Barker, Carole Sallery, Ahmed Vali, Sajid Ghani.

In Attendance: Alan Brown, Finance Director; Karen Sturgeon, Clerk; Sara Sherwood

725. Chair's Welcome

Pam Pickles welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting.

726. Apologies for Absence, Consent and Declarations of Interest

Apologies have been received from Janice O'Hanlon, Jean May and Jonathan Barber with consent.

727. Representations

Nothing further to add

728. Safeguarding

Safeguarding report included in the pack to Local Governing Body from Jean May. Pam Pickles advised that members take it away to read.

729. Finance Update

Alan Brown shared the Finance Update and reported a 2017/18 end-of-year surplus of around £430,000 (the inflated surplus of £511,885 includes £66,000 Teaching Schools' Income and £16,500 Global Giving Grant which were received in advance of 2018/19).

BGHS has been successful in a number of funding applications in 2017/18 and the extra income has been very welcome. Alan Brown advised that the surplus is not forecast to be as high for 2018/19.

Alan Brown said that whilst BGHS manage their finances well, there is so much uncertainty around future funding for schools, so we are using the most up-to-date formula that we are aware of. The revised 2018/19 surplus assumed that a number of staff will not be replaced so it has increased the projected surplus. There might also be additional savings depending on which teachers achieve UPS, as all those eligible to move through the range are included in the projections at the start of the year. Insurance costs are higher as we have purchased the new mini bus. Transport costs are higher because of The Big Day Out.

In terms of investment, Alan Brown said that because we have a large amount of money in the current account, he is looking at opening another account with a higher interest rate. This is currently going through a series of checks and balances.

Julie Haigh and David Cooper thanked Alan Brown for all his work on the Finance Update and on the Audit. Alan Brown commented that it had been a rigorous process. The Auditors were at the MAT for eight days and spent over a week of that at BGHS.

David Cooper had asked the Auditing team how BGHS compared with other schools and the Auditors had said that there was nobody better. The auditors were very complimentary about Alan Brown and the school in general. The Board thanked Alan Brown for his continued hard work.

Michelle Barker asked how the budget will be sustained moving forward. Alan Brown said that in-year deficits were forecast moving forward, but there is uncertainty because we do not know the pupil funding figures and we can only include what we know. Actions will be taken to manage our finances accordingly.

Julie Haigh mentioned that BGHS was looking at expanding PAN which would bring in £100,000 funding as an estimate which is a significant net gain.

730. Data Protection Training and Compliance Update

Laura Bland will be at the next meeting for training on GDPR. Karen Sturgeon asked if all questions could be sent to her and she will pass them to Laura Bland ahead of the meeting.

731. Policies for Approval

a) BGHS Accessibility Plan and Policy

IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments.

b) BGHS Anti Bullying Policy

IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments.

Pam Pickles and Stephanie Holt expressed how thorough the policy was. Julie praised Laura Bland for her diligence in revising the policies.

c) BGHS Exclusions Policy

IT WAS AGREED to pass with no amendments.

d) BGHS Community Cohesion Policy

Stephanie Holt questioned the role of Governors and asked if they needed a 'Time Out' to talk about these. **IT WAS AGREED** to table this at the next meeting.

e) BGHS Key Stage 5 Work Experience Policy

Stephanie Holt raised how would the 'Governing body is responsible...' on p4. The Governing Body agreed that it would be useful to have a list of where students were going. David Cooper agreed and that BGHS would be happy to supply details.

f) BGHS Target Setting Policy

IT WAS AGREED to pass with amends for English and Maths as targets are set differently.

732. Minutes of the LGB Meeting held on 27 September 27 September 2018

IT WAS AGREED to change point 716 on representation (Stephanie Holt and Jean May should be there).

733. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

734. Admissions - PAN for September 2019

Julie Haigh explained that there is a demographic bulge coming and there was a move to open a new school. The Local Authority and BGHS do not think there is a need for a new school - and the new school would be detrimental. In addition, BGHS has a huge waiting list and the appeals process is traumatic for those involved.

The school has 211 Year 7 students now and this would go up to 235, so Year 7 would have a 9 form entry. BGHS are already overstaffed by 1 member of staff so there would be a net profit and it is the right thing to do for the community.

Carole Sallery asked where the students on the waiting list were going. Julie Haigh and David Cooper said they sometimes go to Westborough High School. Stephanie Holt asked what happened when children move into the area and Julie Haigh explained that they would come through on general appeal.

Julie further explained that Gillian Hughes or Gareth Goddard attend the appeals and she would ask them to a session on the appeals and admissions procedure at a later date.

735. Co-Heads' Interim Report

League Tables 2018/19

Julie Haigh shared the League Tables which had just gone live. BGHS were at the top in Kirklees but Julie advised that if Manor Croft have remarks then they might be top. Julie Haigh congratulated Manor Croft on their performance in the League Tables.

Julie Haigh shared information from The Guardian's article on academies and the process of 'off-rolling' in which Year 11 students who are underachieving disappear. Karen Sturgeon explained that if students were not part of the January Census then they do not count in the school results. Karen Sturgeon also discussed some schools' use of EduCast, which is a Welsh exam board. Helen Sheldrake had advised not to use it.

Stephanie Holt asked how Upper Batley High School had done. Julie Haigh showed that the league table predicted they would be -0.29 as expected, but boys nationally are -0.25 so the overall picture is not that concerning for UBHS. Julie Haigh also explained that the new exams are literacy-based and 30% of the students at UBHS are low ability so they would struggle.

Attendance

Julie Haigh then moved on to the body of the Co-Heads' Report. Beginning with attendance, there has been a change in the way it has been reported and it is something BGHS needs to invest heavily in. But in better news, there is an improvement with attendance and explained that the figure is not up by 4% but better by 4%.

Carole Sallery asked what was happening with Year 8. Ahmed Vali explained that it was mostly Leave of Absences which impacted on pupil movement. Carole Sallery asked if the LOA were unauthorised and Ahmed Vali said they were. Julie Haigh compared their experience to Field Lane who have a similar issue with LOA.

Ahmed Vali explained the attendance procedure and how the team are working on rewards incentives for full attendance. The team are implementing home visits on the first day and the third day is Safeguarding and the team go out to the home address. BGHS have come out of the blocks quickly, the odd days impact but we have to get that message out to parents.

Michelle Barker asked about an Attendance Bus and Stephanie Holt asked about rewards. Ahmed Vali responded that he was worried about setting a precedent with an attendance bus and did not want parents to rely on it.

Year 11

Year 11 is positive, people are reluctant to predict higher grades but high ability is a focus for 2018/19. Compliance issues around Pupil Premium, the Pupil Premium is +0.34 which is better than the national.

Julie Haigh also shared the Telegraph and Argus article about the trip to Pinewood Studios during half-term.

Carole Sallery asked about Batley Food Bank. Julie Haigh said that the letters had gone home to all students to bring fruit in, Carole Sallery said that she would take it to the Food Bank on Tuesday.

Careers' Hub

David Cooper discussed the Careers' Hub launch which happened on Tuesday. There are 35 schools developing a strategy and engaging parents. The launch was great - Hasnanah Nasser gave a fantastic speech. Vice Chancellor of the University of Huddersfield, Bob Cryan, gave a keynote speech, he does not normally do external events so it was a bit of a coup.

Julie Haigh agreed and also commended David Cooper on the Careers' Hub event. It was a great success and a huge accolade.

Sixth Form

David Cooper also shared details of Erica Hiorns's Key Stage 5 Review. Erica Hiorns runs the Post-16 network and is an Ofsted inspector. She gave an objective view of the Sixth Form, when she came to BGHS she saw a number of lessons and interviewed students and staff. To summarise her findings, she saw elements of Sixth Form which is not done better anywhere else: careers, enrichment, relationships, leadership and feedback. Every student demonstrated that they received a high level of feedback.

In terms of improvement, Erica Hiorns had lots of suggestions on linear learning - memory for learning and techniques. Flips learning - digging deeper into the content. Erica also reported a nervousness about the new curriculum so difficult areas of content are hard to access. She also recommended really challenging the students.

Stephanie Holt asked if Erica had made any comments about the ambition of the students.

David Cooper said they have a lot of work to do on that, but also that skills (communication, creative thinking, problem solving). David Cooper said that Erica had identified key areas which he was already aware of so it was helpful to have external validation. It was a very thorough review and David Cooper wanted to thank Karen Sturgeon and Michelle Barker for their data work.

736. Strategic Focus - Autumn Cycle of SEF

Julie Haigh advised that Governors read the SEF in their own time. Stephanie Holt commented that it was very easy to read.

737. Trustees and Governors in School, the Community and Training

Carole Sallery is waiting for her meeting but suggested that she go after the Co-Heads' Celebration. Julie Haigh will ask Kate Roberts and Fazila Patel to get in touch.

Stephanie Holt asked when Governors could meet with Trustees. Julie Haigh said she would discuss at the upcoming Trustees Away Day. Stephanie Holt asked how the Governors could share feedback from the courses which they had done. Karen Sturgeon will put together a feedback form.

Stephanie Holt asked how the Sixth Form meals were going with Sixth Form. David Cooper responded that it has moved on massively and that the students enjoy it much more. Julie Haigh asked if they could do free vouchers for coffee for staff. Carole Sallery asked if they could take Parents' Forum at the next meeting and Julie Haigh agreed.

738. Any Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

740. Agenda, Minutes and Related Papers

IT WAS DETERMINED that the sections of Outcomes documentation from the Co-Heads' Report, 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.