

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 11 February 2021, 6:30pm

| TRUSTEES PRESENT: | APOLOGIES: |
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| Siraj Mayet (Chair) | Mandip Sahota |
| Ellen Loughhead JP (Vice Chair) | Nailah Ahmed |
| Trude Feiweles | |
| Jeremy Townend | |
| Mandy Kennedy | |

| IN ATTENDANCE: | |
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| Julie Haigh (Trust CEO and Co-Head at BGHS) | Sam Vickers (Trust Vice CEO and Headteacher at UBHS) |
| Hilary Towers-Islam (Primary Expert and Headteacher at Field Lane) | Alan Brown (Trust Finance Director) |
| Laura Bland (Clerk) | |

| | Minutes | Action |
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| 1. | <u>Chair's Welcome</u> | |
| | The Chair opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. The Chair apologised for the delay in starting the meeting following the Outcomes sub committee meeting (<i>to note: meeting time to be reviewed for 2021/22</i>). | |
| 2. | <u>Apologies for Absence, consent and declarations of interest</u> | |
| | Apologies had been received from Mandip Sahota with consent. LB to follow up with Nailah Ahmed. There were no declarations of interests and the meeting was quorate. | LB |
| 3. | <u>Representation</u> | |
| | Nothing to report. | |
| 4. | <u>Minutes of the last meeting (AGM and Full Board Meeting - 10 December 2020)</u> | |
| | It was AGREED the minutes of the previous meetings were a true and accurate record, subject to an amendment re: finances from the full board meeting. | LB/ABr |

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| | AGM minutes were shared for information only. | |
| 5. | <u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u> | |
| | <p>Those present discussed the various matters arising from the December meeting and it was agreed to continue to work through these.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged there had been a number of meetings over a short period of time and the effort from the Executive to manage schools during the pandemic had to continue to take priority.</p> | |
| 6. | <u>CEO Report</u> | |
| | <p>The CEO confirmed the Trust's bid to support Share leading the Teaching School had been successful. The Trust's SLEs will continue to be deployed, albeit via Share and the LA coalition work.</p> <p>The CEO directed Trustees to various pages of the CEO Report, summarising key things to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaders have responded swiftly to plans for asymptomatic lateral flow testing in schools. Secondary Heads elected teams, in line with guidance to run the testing programmes for staff and students. - Much work continues to support disadvantaged, SEND, EHCP and vulnerable students. - The DfE has supplied the Trust with 545 devices. - Remote learning engagement is comparable with other similar Trusts. Schools have worked hard and continue to work hard securing engagement from students and families. - All schools continue to monitor students on site. <i>To consider: further discussions around girls in school vs boys in school.</i> - Trust Heads' meetings continue and have proven invaluable. - Each school's Development Plans have been formatted in line with the Trust's Development Plan - the templates are available as appendices. - Risk assessment continues to be reviewed and is communicated regularly with Trustees and LGBs. - All schools continue to have a presence at the BBEST hub. Its website has recently been updated and this resource signposts families to local services, and support networks. - The Trust will undertake an external review of its safeguarding provision. This will be overseen by the Trust's safeguarding lead. - The Winter Great Get Together for the Jo Cox Foundation was very successful and planning for the Summer Great Get Together has already begun. - Trust Headteachers have continued to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of staff, students and families is at the forefront of their focus. Communication has been vital, and all forms of media outlets have been appropriately utilised. The Vice Chair of Trustees added she has requested each school's mental health and wellbeing Governor to provide a summary of support that school's have put in place for students and staff. <i>To discuss further: a mental health and wellbeing charter/policy.</i> - The CEO and Trustees discussed in detail the expected Ofsted Inspection for Healey School. Prior to the pandemic, Healey was preparing for a full Ofsted section 5 visit. Whilst significant improvements have been made in the school, these are more readily understood in the context of the school being fully open and visited in person. | <p>Trustees</p> <p>Trustees</p> |

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| | <p>The data, as is often the case with a school who needs to improve in several areas, shows some key improvements, however significant improvements are still required. The school would fare better with an onsite inspection. The Headteacher has worked hard to ensure the SEF accurately evidences the impact of the work she and her team have undertaken, and that the actions they are currently undertaking to further improve standards from 2021 and beyond, are clearly evident. With an imminent virtual visit expected, the SEF judgement for Quality of Education and therefore Leadership is currently 3+. Whilst there would be no actual Ofsted judgement made during the current scheduled visits, it is important that inspectors have confidence in the leaders accurate understanding of the schools position with regard to progress towards 'Good'.</p> <p>Trustees questioned the change in rating and after much discussion were happy with the CEO's suggestion.</p> <p>Mandy Kennedy left the meeting at 7:45pm.</p> | |
| 7. | <u>Outcomes Sub Committee - Feedback</u> | |
| | <p>The Chair of the subcommittee provided a summary of the recent meeting, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general picture for the Trust was positive - schools have been very proactive in a very difficult and complex situation. - Good systems are in place for monitoring engagements. - Ongoing concerns with SEND students and schools continue to work hard with provision in this area. - Mental health and wellbeing of staff and students continues to be a key focus, but striking the right balance for everyone is difficult. - Much attention has been given to 'the next steps' for progress, assessment and attainment. - CAGs - more challenge from students and families anticipated this year and schools must be clear in communicating the processes, responsibility and accountability surrounding this form of assessment. | |
| 8. | <u>Compliance and Governance</u> | |
| | <p>a) Leave of Absence Part A</p> <p>Trustees agreed to APPROVE this policy.</p> <p>b) Leave of Absence Part B</p> <p>Trustees agreed to APPROVE this policy.</p> <p>c) Online Safety</p> <p>Trustees agreed to APPROVE this policy.</p> <p>d) Shared Parental Leave</p> <p>Trustees agreed to APPROVE this policy.</p> | |

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| 9. | <u>Safeguarding Update</u> | |
| | <p>The Vice Chair referenced the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting, confirming significant work continues to be in place across the Trust.</p> <p>There is much benefit from the BBEST hub which is a great platform for effective and supportive discussion.</p> | |
| 10. | <u>AOB</u> | |
| | <p>The CEO presented the draft term dates for 2021/22 and sought approval from Trustees. It was agreed to proceed with the draft dates, subject to additional consideration from the CEO and VCEO.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 8:05pm.</p> | |
| 11. | <u>Next meeting: 29 April 2021, 6:30pm</u> | |