



Tile Cross Academy

Minutes of the Advisory Academy Body Meeting held at the School At 4.00pm on Thursday 21st June 2018

Present: Mrs Nazmeen Akhtar – Parent Governor
Mr Javed Iqbal – Parent Governor
Cllr John Cotton – Community Governor

Apologies: Mr Martin Holcombe - Chair
Mr Nigel Bratt – Vice Chair
Mrs Jenny Pemberton – Staff Governor
Ms Bev Mabey – WHMAT CEO

In Attendance: Mr Chris Etheridge - Head of Academy
Mrs Clare Holmes - Clerk
Mrs Sue Richardson – School Business Manager, Finance
Mr Dave Worledge - WHMAT

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the 3rd May 2018

RESOLVED: The minutes of the AAB meeting, held on 3rd May 2018 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

1. In the minutes of the 3rd May it was noted that Mrs Holmes would arrange for Tile Cross Link Governros to link up with Saltley Link Governors . Mrs Holmes advised that she had spoken with the Governors at Saltley and they were happy for TCA Governors to contact them.

Action : Mrs Holmes to distribute Governor e-mail addresses.

2. In the minutes of the 3rd May there was an action for Mr Etheridge to provide some guidance for Governors regarding progress 8.
Mr Etheridge distributed a guide to progress 8 to Governors and explained how progress 8 and the new grading systems work.

Pecuniary Interests

There were no additions to pecuniary interests. Governors were advised that they would be asked to complete a new declaration form in September.

Finance Update

Mrs Richardson distributed the management accounts up to 31st May 2018. There has not been much change from the last report where the deficit was reported to be £15,000 and is now £18,000. Spending has slowed and the order books have been closed with effect from 22nd June 2018.

The budget for academic year 18-19 was distributed. Mr Worledge reported Income is coming down and the lend lease contract is large because it is based on previous school data when the school had approx. 400 more pupils. There is also a pension deficit to pay which is driven by previous school staff numbers not current staff numbers. Following the restructure that has recently taken place staffing costs have been reduced by £35,000 but there has been a fall in income, progression payments, TUPE costs, 2% cost of living rise and extra payments for teachers pensions. The school has tried to mitigate against these rises by reducing the number of cover supervisors, not replacing a couple of teaching assistants that have left, not replacing teaching staff through natural wastage. Head Office have also held their costing at 4% whereas all other schools in the MAT have had an increase to 5%. In the near future it is hoped that this will also be helped by the end of the Lend Lease contract. Therefore the budget for next year stands at £100,000 overspend which will be covered by the MAT and will have to be paid back over a 3 year period. This proposal has gone to the Finance Committee and the outcome should be known within a week.

Mr Iqbal commented that £100,000 overspend is a huge amount. He asked if the school thinks they can afford to pay it back over the next 3 years.

Mr Etheridge responded that he was hopeful of paying this sum back over a 2 year period £25,000 followed by £75,000. Mr Worledge replied that the MAT have written to the EFDA and the Local MP regarding the schools difficult financial position.

Mr Etheridge asked when the school can expect a response form the EFSA.

Mr Worledge said he was hopeful that a response would be received before the summer holidays.

Mr Iqbal asked if the school had received a response form Liam Byrne MP yet.

Mr Etheridge and Mr Worledge stated that they had not but the letter only went off a couple of days ago.

Mr Iqbal and Cllr Cotton both stated that they have meetings with Liam Byrne shortly and will mention the situation to him.

Mr Etheridge thanked Mr Worledge for his input on this matter, his letter to the EFSa was swift and well written.

Cllr Cotton asked what effect the reduction in staffing would have on the pupils.

Mr Etheridge stated that he was confident that the needs of the pupils can still be met despite 12 support staff leaving and 2 members of SLT. Mr Etheridge stated that he felt the school was ready to have a smaller SLT .

Cllr Cotton asked if the school would need to carry out another restructure in the future..

Mr Etheridge responded that it was very disappointing

Martin Holcombe – Data
Nigel Bratt – Safeguarding
Javed Iqbal – Community

Mr Etheridge approached Mrs Akhtar prior to the meeting and Mrs Akhtar agreed to be the Link Governor for SEN.

Governor Training

Mrs Holmes has details of training courses most of which fall within the summer term. Mr Holcombe advised that he had attended the Governors Induction course in February and had found it useful.

Mr Etheridge informed Governors that he along with the schools SLT and Mr Holcombe had met with James McNeillie the Senior Ofsted HMI for the West Midlands. Mr Etheridge will give full feedback at the next Governors meeting as the meeting only took place earlier today.

Action: Mrs Holmes to e-mail Governors with details of relevant courses.

Mrs Holmes also suggested that TCA Link Governors meet up with their counterpart at Saltley Academy in order to get a flavour of how the Link system works there.

Action: Mrs Holmes to contact Mr York (Chair of Governors Saltley Academy) to enquire about the possibility of Governors contacting each other.

Pupil Numbers

Mr Etheridge reported that pupil numbers have increased since the last meeting. Year 10 is now full. The decision was made to go over PAN in years 8 and 10 to allow for pupil mobility. This decision has had a knock on effect especially at KS3 with some sets increasing to 31 pupils. HOF's have expressed concern over group sizes. Mr Etheridge reported that the academy will be moving back to 6 sets instead of 5 at KS3 from September 2018.

Mrs Pemberton asked if the academy has stopped taking in Year 8's now?

Mr Etheridge replied that we have as we are now over PAN in Year 8. He also reported that years 7 and 9 have both increased slightly but that the list of New Year 7's (2018) is most disappointing.

Mr Holcombe asked if there is a detailed ward boundary map available from the council.

Mr Etheridge advised that he was not aware of one.

Mrs Akhtar asked if we have pupils working with pupils from primary schools, specifically the primary school that they themselves came from?

Mr Etheridge responded that the school does a lot of work with our local primaries; Ms Cook AHT is a dedicated member of staff for transition and co-ordinates various activities and parents evenings etc.

Mrs Pemberton suggested that we get our Prefects to visit local primary schools to spread the word about how the school is improving etc.

Mr Etheridge stated that each member of SLT will be visiting our local primary schools one day next week targeting parents of years 5 and 6 pupils.

Head of Academy self- evaluation overview

Mr Holcombe stated that he can see from the SEF document that years 7, 8 and 9 are up in numbers and 10 and 11 have gone down.

Mr Etheridge explained that this is due to us losing a couple of year 10's to the local 14+ Schools and Year 11's to alternative provision. Mr Etheridge explained the process regarding EBN School and the process that is followed when placing students into alternative provision.

Mr Holcombe asked how many pupils are currently on roll but attending alternative provision.

Action: Mr Etheridge to bring Alternative Provision numbers to the next Governors meeting.

External exclusions are on track for a 20% reduction this year and this is on top of a 50% reduction last year. Currently all year groups fixed term exclusions are reducing except for year 8. Mr Etheridge explained that this is despite the school having a

serious incident recently with three pupils. Two of these pupils are year 11 and instead of permanently excluding them the academy has been able to place them within the other secondary schools within the MAT. The third pupil, who is also year 11 and was involved in a separate incident, has been kept in school in isolation as she is a very vulnerable student with a number of welfare issues.

Mr Holcombe asked Mr Etheridge if in his opinion the academy is too hard, too soft or just right when it comes to dealing with behavioural issues?

Mr Etheridge responded that the school uses a simple, consistent behaviour system which has 5 stages and results in pupils being removed from lesson and placed into isolation. Pupils do not like isolation. If a pupil is removed from a lesson they have to attend a resolution meeting with the member of staff concerned in order that they can start afresh at the next lesson. The school's system is a positive discipline system and pupils are given positive stamps in their planner for good behaviour.

The Academy intervenes early when there are issues with poor behaviour; we have the nurture room where pupils go if they are struggling and whilst they learn how to modify their behaviour.

Mrs Akhtar asked if the school offers anger management courses to its pupils.

Mr Etheridge responded that Mrs Fahy, Welfare Officer, is trained in delivering anger management courses to pupils.

Mr Bratt noted that there had been no exclusions for year 7 pupils which is a positive.

Mr Etheridge reported that whole school attendance has improved from 90.87% to 91.57%. Persistent absence is still an issue and following a review of processes Ms Cook, AHT has taken a lead on attendance with letters going home and meetings taking place for all pupils with attendance that falls within the PA level.

Curriculum area reviews have been taking place with 5 faculties already reviewed; the process is now embedded into the schools QA systems. The science faculty is due to be reviewed shortly. Mrs Pemberton (staff governor and Head of Science) will report on this process at the next Governors meeting.

PHSE, there are now detailed plans for the delivery of PHSE across the school. There is currently a working party (3 volunteer members of staff) that are looking at improvements in this area.

Doddle is giving the school useful meaningful data for KS3. There are still some concerns with certain groups, PA's, HPA's and SEN. After Easter there is a data drop for all year groups and the 3 year trend should still be positive.

Action: Mr Etheridge to feedback on SEN & HPA data.

Resolved that this policy be ratified as of today's date.

SENCo, TCA's current SENCo is leaving at Easter having secured an AHT role at a school closer to home in Derbyshire. The permanent role will be advertised in September in the meantime our Assistant SENCo has been appointed to the role of SENCo on a temporary basis.

Policies

Exams Policy

Curriculum Policy

Assessment Policy

Resolved: the exams policy be ratified as of today's date

The curriculum and Assessment Policies will be sent out to all Governors again and brought back to the next Governors meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.45pm.

Next meeting dates TBC