

MINUTES

Minutes of the James Rennie School Local Advisory Board meeting, held at James Rennie School, California Road, CA3 0BU on 13th June 2024 starting at 13:15pm.

Attendance:

Rachel Woolley	RW	Teacher
Nicola McInnes	NM	LAB Member/Safeguarding
Arthur Paynter	AP	LAB Member
Kerry Dunbobbin	KD	Head of School
Lisa Battersby	LB	Teacher
Brian Eaton	BE	LAB Member
Michael Manley	MM	Chair of LAB
Mel Kinsella	MK	Visitor
Paul Agnew	PA	Visitor
Also present		
Emma McDermott	EM	Clerk

Apologies:

Jonty Hanlon	JH	LAB Member – Deputy Chair
Jackie Hudson	JHU	Teaching Assistant

Absent:

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Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
1/2023-24	Welcome, introductions and apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from JH and JHU	
2/2023-24	Declaration of interests and offer/receipt of gifts or hospitality: There were no new declarations.	
3/2023-24	Minutes and actions from the last meeting: Minutes of the meeting held on 21 st March 24 were discussed and agreed.	

17.10.24

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4/2023-24	BE asked KD whether St Edmunds has been deconsecration KD advised she still isn't aware of where this is up to.	
5/2023-24	Feedback from LAB Liaison: JH has attended the last few LAB Liaison meetings - feedback was given regarding the last LAB Liaison meeting at the last LAB meeting.	
6/2023-24	Head's update: Pupil Numbers: The school has had agreement from the local authority to fund some building works to happen in school. The current art and science room will become a sensory regulation area for pupils. The communication room will be split – one half being a classroom the other half being a smaller communication room. The drama room is going to be made into a storage space. Pupil numbers have risen from 195 to 201. The demand for special school places is massive in the area and this puts a lot of pressure on James Rennie School. The local authority has agreed to more funding for specialist resource provision in mainstream schools. The school recently secured a small bit of land - this has been put to the authority as a long-term plan. The school is happy to take on more pupils however it means that the demand on shared spaces is high and rooms that were once used for activities outside the classroom are being decommissioned. KD advised that she thinks this has to be the last time the school can increase pupil numbers until they get a bigger space. Teachers embrace having new pupils and they do make it work however they do struggle with shared spaces. Less things take place for whole school activities as the school grows in size. Teachers and support staff have a good working relationship and work well together. James Rennie is a family community and all staff help pick each other up. This term is always a tricky one but overall teacher morale is good. MM is very good at promoting well-being. The school have a well-being group. This group works together to focus on staff well-being by looking at suggestions from staff and try to work on any issues they may have. Wider Eden News: Paul has now left the trust and Carley Holliman has joined as Deputy CEO, she is due to visit James Rennie on 24th June with Susan. Peer to peer took place recently – Toni from Moorcroft school and Terri visited. They focused on	

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	Sixth form and the school's new provision. The report hasn't been received but the overall feedback was really positive. Audits: The school have recently been through a Safeguarding and Health and Safety Audit. Oliver worked really hard and got 91% overall. The safeguarding audit result was 93%. These are both brilliant results. LAB Recruitment: The school are still looking for more LAB members to join. Kerry is still waiting for recruitment materials from the academy. Summer Term Fun: Lots of outdoor activities have taken place this summer term such as sailing, carriage riding, playing golf, cycling and climbing. This has been a lot of work but seeing the pupil's faces has been worth it! Madaclassgar: End of year celebration – Friday 28th June. This is based on the theme of the movie Madagascar. Each class has chosen a Disney Movie and will theme their class around this. There will be live music and lots of fun! LAB members are invited to this. Work day: School recently held a work/careers day. This involved lots of business's coming in to do workshops and work with the children. This was a huge success! Family Support: Emma James (STA) is doing a fantastic job on the St Edmunds site working closely with parents and developing good relationships. Emma is also making close contacts with the local community. Heather (Extended school co-ordinator) has settled in really well and is doing a brilliant job of reigniting the PTFA – she recently held a fundraising chocolate bingo event which raised £1000!	

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7/2023-24	Stakeholder engagement: The school has lots of engagement with local schools and business's such as: Trinity School, Carlisle College, Prisim Arts, Botcherby community centre, Carlisle Youth Zone, Watchtree nature reserve etc	
8/2023-24	LAB engagement and recruitment: School are still looking to recruit more LAB members. AP has been in school doing music sessions with some of the classes and JH spent some time with Amy looking at finance.	
9/2023-24	Items to be raised with the Board of Trustees: No items to raise	

There are no confidential minutes for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 14:10pm

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ACTION SUMMARY

Agenda item x/2023-24		Action	Who

