

MINUTES

Minutes of the James Rennie School Local Advisory Board meeting held via Zoom at James Rennie School, California Road, Carlisle CA3 0BU on 15th October starting at 1pm.

Attendance:

Arthur Paynter	AP	LAB member
Brian Eaton	BE	Trustee and LAB member. Acting chair for this meeting.
Kris Williams	KW	Headteacher
Michael Manley	MM	LAB Chair (joined for agenda items 10 & 11)
Michelle Graham	MG	LAB member
Shane Byrne	SB	LAB member
Sophie Dowling	SD	LAB member
Also present		
Jan Cameron	JC	Clerk
Kerry Dunbobbin	KD	Deputy (joined from agenda item7)
Lisa Hollywood	LH	Business Manager (joined from agenda item7)

Apologies:

Sarah Edgar	SE	LAB member
Joanne Gill	JG	LAB member
Jean Rhodes	JR	LAB member
Jonty Hanlon	JH	LAB member

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
1/2020-21	Welcome, introductions and apologies BE agreed to act a chair as MM had been delayed. Apologies were received from JH,SE and JG	
2/2020-21	Declaration of interests and offer/receipt of gifts or hospitality There were no new declarations.	
3/2020-21	Minutes and actions from the last meeting Due to the time-lapse since the last meeting held on 15 th March, the minutes were noted. .	

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4/2020-21	Heads' update - School now has 149 pupils and the nearer school is to the PAN of 150, the more pressure there is on the budget. There is a need for additional staff but the funding is not available, however, school has still managed to keep the same ratios. In addition, school now has the biggest group of pupils with Downs Syndrome. - Teaching is outstanding. Given that pupils had not been in school for such a long time the progress that has been made is excellent with most classes being where they should be. - The roofing works are ahead of schedule and below budget and the contractors are the best that have ever been on site and couldn't be praised highly enough. If the costs come in under budget, any outstanding amount could be spent on work to the chimneys. <u>MG & SD were asked for their perspective on how school was operating at the moment.</u> MG said that some staff were anxious about Covid but that SMT had been very accommodating and generally staff were happy with the current arrangements. SD stated that she felt things were as normal as they could be given the extra precautions. SB also said that as a parent he could only add to the positive feedback and that his son was happy to be back in school. KW presented the SDP and highlighted the following: - Some pupils were now able to walk around school independently whilst observing the new rules. Staff are going to look to re-baseline pupils against where they were last year. - School council elections are to be held next week. - Covid recovery group had been meeting weekly but would now move to fortnightly. - The Sex and Relationship Policy would be out for consultation next term. Staff on the development group was thanked for their input. - Family Services (our extended schools) only had 18 months' worth of money left in which to be able to operate. There was a need to ensure that the finance would be available to continue to offer the same provision. - Pupils are to be assessed on what they are learning and not just with an emphasis on Maths and English. - There was a need to include more information for parents within the IEP's, SB and JG were invited to form a working group, alongside AP to make sure that at home as well as school pupil's needs are being met. - Gatsby benchmark was explained, along with the	AP/JG/SB

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	need to ensure that pupils and parents have a clear pathway post 16. Work on this is now starting at year 9 to make sure this is as strong as it can possibly be. There are to be virtual careers fairs and if possible, work experience is planned for January for KS4. • There needs on be an on-line offer available for all pupils and a grant of £1k has been allocated to facilitate this; the details are currently being worked through. • Staff welfare is continuing to be followed through and includes a new PPA room and changes to the ordering system. • The comments from Andrew were discussed. It was explained that they had been left in to show peer challenge and to see quality assurance to come out of the process. Kris explained that he disagreed on one of the points raised, as he felt there was an expectation that NQT teaching should be outstanding; there was evidence that this happened in the past and should continue to be expected. • <u>BE said that it was all very positive.</u> • <u>BE stated that at some point in the future, when possible, it would be good for staff to meet Andrew Sanders.</u> • <u>BE also asked if there was any specific reason that the numbers of pupils with Downs Syndrome were on the increase. It was explained that it was just an anomaly, with no specific cause.</u>	
5/2020-21	Covid Update • In the locality the numbers of cases were below average. School attendance was above average and above the national mainstream average. • The biggest issue to date was a bus driver who tested positive but our 2 pupils were not affected. • Locally there are 4 schools with active cases with 2 of them having more than 2 cases each. • The Covid recovery fund is to be spent on mid-day supervisors to help with social interaction and webcams for pupils at home to be able to join their class in school. • Staff have been very good at ensuring good hand washing practices. • 3 or 4 members of staff have been very anxious so there is a need to ensure that they feel supported. • Some items of PPE have increased in costs 4 fold, however, the LA is committed to providing PPA free of charge. • <u>MG asked about guidance for any online facility and</u>	

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	<u>was assured that all previous guidance was still appropriate as it would just entail logging onto a new system.</u> <u>BE said that we would inevitably have at least one case in the future and that we need to be measured in our approach and to keep a sense of proportion.</u> SB left the meeting at this point	
6/2020-21	School Events for this year School events are still happening; for example there will be the usual staff sausage baguette day and the 'clay aliens' are in the process of being made. The Xmas nativity will still take place, albeit in a different format. The title of the production is yet to be decided but the theme will be based on the TV programme 'Goggle Box'	
7/2020-21	Pupil Premium including Covid Recovery Premium & Sports Premium LH & KD joined the meeting. - LH informed the LAB that a 'Catch up Grant' of £36k has been awarded in order to help pupils regain lost ground. - KD confirmed that the Pupil premium was spent differently to what was proposed due to the pandemic. It was used for ICT to support pupils at home. This year it is to be spent supporting vulnerable pupils across school. This is likely to include ICT and the 'Jessie's Fund' project. The BBC has been into school to interview staff and pupils and this will be televised shortly <u>BE asked about measuring success; it was confirmed that this was reported through to the academy and was on the website.</u>	
8/2020-21	Finance Update LH explained that the end of the financial year now coincides with the end of the academic year and that at the closure of the accounts the C/F figure from last year was £60k. This was, however, ring-fenced capital monies and the true figure is much smaller. The situation is fairly serious. All possible savings have already been achieved and there had not been any huge saving during lockdown. With adjustments to contracts there has been a saving of £13k per annum but there is no room for complacency and the only alternative left is to generate more revenue funds. There has been a small % rise in the bandings but it is not enough to cover the increased on-costs of non-teaching staff. Meetings are ongoing with the LA and now include an assertive and consolidated approach from all SEN Heads; Governors, and senior personnel from the Trust are also now involved.	

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	There will be changes to the proposed budget for this year as pay rises for non-teaching staff have now been finalised and there is still a level of uncertainty around national issues, future requirements, and possible bids. Staffing at the moment is, on the whole fairly stable, however it is not possible to predict any future call on the budget. There are 2 long term sicknesses, 1 maternity leave, and 1 teacher unable to be in class due to an injury. Adjustments will be made to the budget as necessary.	
9/2020-21	Buildings Update The roof is ahead of schedule with the possibility of further work to the chimney and the decorators will be in during half term. Work didn't stop during lockdown and included: a new PPA room; yurt; revamp of front play area in KS1; control doors and a large piece of play equipment fixed under warranty. The pool remains closed but is allowed to tick over which means there will no issues when it's reinstated. A big thank you is to go to catering who now provide hot meals in cartons and to Janet Shepard for all her work in making the school almost cash less. There have been a lot of positives.	
10/2020-21	Understanding where pupils are now and looking forward KD reported that some pupils will have regressed whilst others will have progressed during lockdown. Teachers are looking at base-lines before half term with a target to review in February. School will need to realistic with regard to any pupil who has regressed. <u>BE asked what were the relative percentage figures and it was confirmed that the figure will be looked at in due course</u>	
11/2020-21	Feedback from LAB Liaison MM had been unable to attend the last liaison meeting. BE said that what had turned into Covid practice for meetings might be a possible way forward for the future. MM stated that he thought the liaison meetings in whatever format worked well in that people got a chance to know each other and that it was an opportunity for free thinking. He also felt that the twilight time was helpful. BE also stated that if the chairs were unable to attend then it would be appropriate to send a replacement such as the vice chair.	
12/2020-21	Any other business MM wanted to add that he had been in school and that everything seemed to be working well with a calm and fairly normal atmosphere.	

ACTION SUMMARY

Action		Who
4/2020-21	To form a working group to look at IEP's.	AP/SB/JG