

MINUTES

Agenda for the James Rennie School Local Advisory Board meeting, to be held at James Rennie School, California Road, Carlisle, CA3 0BU, on 20th March 2025, starting at 13:15pm.

Attendance:

John Barradell	JB	LAB Chair
Kerry Dunbobbin	KD	Head of School
Arthur Paynter	AP	LAB Member
Lisa Faulder	LF	LAB Member
Sophie Dowling	SD	Assistant Headteacher
Nicola McInnes	NM	LAB Member
Also present		
Emma McDermott	EM	Clerk

Apologies:

Nick Timotheou Mel Kinsella Brian Eaton	NT MK BE	
---	----------------	--

Absent:

--	--	--

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
1/2024-25	Welcome, introductions and apologies Apologies were received and accepted from: Nick Timotheou Mel Kinsella Brian Eaton	
2/2024-25	Declaration of interests and offer/receipt of gifts or hospitality There were no new declarations.	
3/2024-25	Minutes and actions from the last meeting Minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd Jan 2025 were agreed. Ref. item #: 3/2024-25	

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
4/2024-25	Feedback from LAB Liaison and other Board/Committee meetings Arthur no longer attends the LAB liaison meetings. John will attend any future meetings. John advised there still is no further news on the online training for the LAB members to take part in. John advised these will be short 15-minute online sessions and the academy will be in touch with LAB members once these go live. John advised that the trust is going to set up Eden email addresses for LAB members to fall in line with confidentiality and GDPR.	
5/2024-25	Head's update Pupil Numbers: School pupil numbers have now gone up to 203. School were directed to take another pupil in February. School have also been directed to take another pupil in September and have 13 tribunals pending and this is likely to rise. James Rennie are likely to have to take these pupils on after the tribunals have taken place. Kerry advised that each tribunal involves a lot of additional work. The last tribunal that Kerry did work for took around 6 hours to complete. Local MP: Since her last visit to James Rennie, Julie Minns has taken the issues around capacity and pupil numbers to PMQS and to Bridget Phillipson (secretary of state for education). Kris Williams is putting some information together for Julie so she can present a business case. Kris and Kerry felt that Julie really listened to them both and cared about the situation. Julie took all of the correct information to PMQs and is trying to use her position as best as possible to push the government and local authority for more answers and support. Wider Eden News: Carly Holliman from the Academy visited on 04th march with a focus on Outcomes and Community. The development points she identified are things that school have already	

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
	recognised and are working on. This visit was overall really positive. LAB Roles: The 3 working groups are as follows based on the conversations that were had at the last meeting: Extended James Rennie Provision – John, Brian and Kerry 19-25 Provision – Arthur, Mel and Oliver Curriculum Review – Nicola, Nick, Lisa and Kate. Kerry is going to speak to the SLT and ask them to contact each member of their working group to get things started. Health Provision: A Sensory Occupational Therapist has been appointed by the NHS to work with schools in Cumberland. This is something that the area has needed for a long time. James Rennie are working with the Local Authority and health commissioners to look at how health is funded in school. Currently James Rennie are using education funding to pay for some health provision. Since this LAB report was written NHS England has collapsed, so the school are not sure if this will change anything in the long run. Rachel Wilcox has created a programme that helps with training staff. The school are putting staff in quite a risky position in terms of what they are asking staff to do medically. Kerry has a meeting with Rachel Wilcox next week and will feedback at the next LAB meeting how this goes. School Activities: The last term has been very busy. For the first time ever, lower school pupils have had the opportunity to attend a Calvert Trust residential for 2 nights. They had a great time and enjoyed lots of different indoor and outdoor activities such as climbing, swimming, archery and canoeing. Lisa said that her daughter attended the trip and had a brilliant time! Lisa said that she was able to use her direct payments to pay for Calvert Trust. School also gets donations from charity to help contribute to the residential trips. School have also celebrated careers week and had visits from the fire, police and blood bikes. Pupils enjoyed this experience. School also participated in world book day and lots of pupils enjoyed dressing up. School also has red nose day, Udance and the art exhibition taking place this month. All LAB members have been invited to the Art Exhibition. Visits to School: Kerry advised that James Rennie are currently doing lots of work with mainstream schools through the early years intervention programme which has involved mainstream staff coming into school to look at the way James Rennie	

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
	works. Kerry recently welcomed 9 delegates from South Africa's Department for basic education to look at specialist provision. This visit went really well and was very positive. Fundraising: A number of staff and parents at school are currently doing some fundraising. One of the school's grandparents has arranged a charity night and the PTFA have organised a quiz night for staff and parents. Some staff are also taking part in Geld Gladiator and the Manchester Marathon.	
6/2024-25	Assessment Update: Sophie advised that the school have started using a new assessment programme called Earwig. School have moved away from Solar as they felt that Earwig would give a clearer understanding of data. Using Earwig means that teachers can take photos of children and upload them to the child's record instantly. This forms evidence for the school year and it can be sent home to parents at the end of the year. Eventually Earwig will be set up for parents and this means that objectives, outcomes and targets can be sent directly to the parents. Sophie pulls together the data and provides a mid-year report to the Eden Academy. Sophie advised that currently most pupils are on track to meet their end of year goals that were set in October. Teachers review these goals every six weeks. Any pupils that aren't on track Sophie works with the teachers to look at possible reasons why this is the case and how they can improve on their goals. There could be various reasons behind why a pupil may be behind on their goals such as illness, attendance and lack of support in specific areas e.g. 1:1 intervention in numeracy and literacy may be needed. Sophie advised it is slightly too early to get feedback from parents at the moment as the app hasn't gone live to parents just yet. Sophie is going to spend some time with all teachers on the Earwig system and see how well it is working. Sophie wants to ensure that all teachers are sending out the same standard of communication to parents. In June teachers will input their final data for that year and Sophie will analyse this, the results of this will then impact on the	

Ref.	Discussions and decisions	Action
	school development plan for next year. End of year outcomes report will be shared with the LAB. Kerry thanked Sophie for all of her hard work on Earwig. John advised he would like to see how dojo works from a parent's point of view Lisa was happy to show him her app.	
7/2024-25	Stakeholder engagement John advised that if we get movement on extending the scale of James Rennie then all LAB members will need to work together with this. Regular meetings with the local authority take place however Emma Hamer still hasn't attended the school. Also, the director of education still hasn't attended any meetings. John advised that he is going to chase up a meeting with Emma Hamer for Kerry.	
8/2024-25	LAB engagement LAB members have engagement within the working groups. LAB members will eventually have access to the intranet and the training that is available on there. Nicola asked Kerry what types of training school can provide that LAB members can attend. Oliver is working on a new CPD cycle – for example if safeguarding training was taking place and an external trainer was coming in it would be up to Kerry to invite LAB members to that.	
9/2024-25	Items to be raised with the Board of Trustees The scaling of James Rennie School.	

There are no confidential minutes for this meeting.

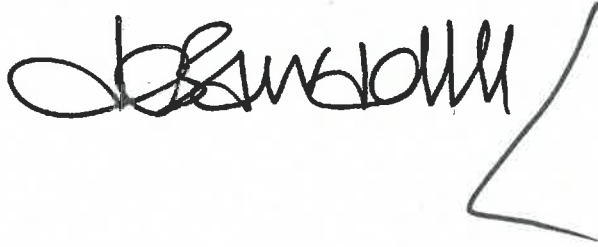
Meeting closed at 14:30pm

These minutes have been issued to the Chair and Head for comment / agreed by the Chair and Head / agreed by the LAB at its subsequent meeting on 21/03/2025

The Eden Academy Trust is a charitable company, limited
by guarantee, registered in England and Wales

Register number: 08036395

Registered office: Moorcroft School, Bramble Close,
Uxbridge UB8 3BF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Smith', followed by a large, stylized checkmark or 'L' shape.

ACTION SUMMARY

Agenda item x/2023-24		Action	Who
		Kerry to ask all SLT members to contact their working groups to get started on each focus area.	KD
		John to chase up a meeting between Kerry and Emma Hamer.	JB

