

**MINUTES**  
**NIGHTINGALE COMMUNITY ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNING BODY (LGB)**  
**MEETING**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2021 AT 4.30 pm**

**Present:** Peter Truesdale, Chair (PT)  
Adam Bowman, Governor (ABB)  
Andre Bailey, Principal (AB)  
Gaynor Barnard, Staff Governor (GB)  
Chiara Lane, Governor (CL)  
Laura Ni Dhruachain, Governor Designate (LN)

**In attendance:** Kelly Collett, Clerk

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all present.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Shamani Wathsala.

Angela Morrison and Kaye Woodcock were not present.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made regarding agenda items.

**4. Constitution and Appointments**

- i Governors recommended the appointment of Laura Ni Dhruachain to the LGB.
- ii Governors re-allocated portfolio roles as follows:
  - Ethos, Vision & Strategy: **Laura Ni Dhruachain**
  - Teaching & Learning: **Chiara Lane**
  - Health & Safety, Safeguarding & Child Protection: **Adam Bowman**
  - Finance & Resources: **Peter Truesdale**
  - Business Development & Marketing: **Gaynor Barnard**
  - HR & OD: **Shamani Wathsala**

**5. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed and will be signed by the chair at a later date.

## 6. Matters Arising

AB advised there is a description of the additional spend in the current Principal's report that details the amount of money for Pupil Premium and the areas in which this money is spent.

## 7. Finance and Funding

a. Governors received the management accounts ahead of the meeting. The management accountant will no longer be present at the LGB meetings. PT advised governors of the following points:

- The school is now in a strong financial position, largely attributable to the Principal's robust budget management.
- At year-end, the school is projected to have 35 days in reserves.
- The financial health grade of the school is 'Outstanding'.
- Much of this financial success is due to an increase in students on roll, with the ambition to increase numbers further.
- Salary costs are running at the expected level, this is due to the school relying less on agency staff now.
- The farm income will increase in the summer months due to the animals feeding outside, so less feed needs to be purchased. The farm will also begin the selling of the lambs.

AB advised governors of the following:

- It has taken 2-3 years of work to get the budget into a positive position.
  - The staff structure has been built around the assumption of 120 children, which is sufficient to ensure a good curriculum is delivered through high-quality teaching.
  - Both in and out of borough referrals now come with increased funding per child creating an overall increase in funds of 119% since 2016.
  - The number of referrals has doubled.
  - When AB joined the school in 2016, a £600k deficit was projected.
- b. The sports premium has been adjusted due to Covid-19, so AB was not able to report accurately on this currently. Deferred to next meeting. **ACTION: AB**

## 8. Principal's Report

Governors received the Principal's report ahead of the meeting. The Principal highlighted the following points:

- The Spring term has been particularly challenging due to Covid-19; however, staff and learners have responded to the challenges with remarkable resilience.

- There are currently 113 learners on roll. The school have instigated a consultation to increase the roll to 120. Lambeth and Merton Councils have increased their referrals to NCA.
- The school are in conversations with Wandsworth about expanding the provision and making it available to more children. The school are also having conversations about possibly supporting girls with SEMH in the borough.
- The SLT are currently scheduling mid-year reviews for performance management. Staff members have been informed that they will not be penalised where performance has been impacted by the pandemic.
- Lesson observations are now more closely aligned to the Ofsted expectations around deep dive and curriculum.
- The school is developing a new curriculum framework.
- The school has sought to improve interventions in numeracy and literacy, with a particular focus on reading and extended writing.
- The school has introduced a 'Behaviour and Inclusion centre' to support learners who might otherwise struggle to stay in school and successfully complete lessons. The learners can access this provision for periods of time until they are deemed ready to return to their class.
- Attendance has been affected by Covid-19 and the anxieties surrounding this. The school are in constant contact with families offering support and trying to work on solutions to encourage all the children into school.
- The school is receiving an additional £10k per term confirmed funding from Pittance Farm where the owners provide routine access to grazing land for the school's sheep. This donated money is to fund an executive farm role that will allow the school to support the growth of farming across several schools within the trust, whilst generating the revenue required to make the farms costs neutral. The project is awaiting Trust board approval.
- Next term the school will have an on-site social worker who will be working closely with the children and their families. The school is hopeful for better quality outcomes through an improved social care team at Wandsworth.
- Building improvement work will commence in the Easter holidays, although a bulk of it will be completed in the Summer holidays.
- There is some fire regulation work that needs to take place, as AB feels the current 'break glass' alarm points do not offer a robust enough solution for SEMH settings.
- The school were extremely grateful to their partners Magic Breakfast, Chefs in Schools and Dinner Ladies Ltd for the generous help they have provided over the course of this school year to help feed members of the school community.
- The school should start 2021-2022 with a full staff complement.
- Many of the staff who wished to be vaccinated have now received the vaccine. The vast majority of staff are also completing regular LFD testing.

### **Governor Questions:**

ABB: The percentage of children with Dyslexia seems rather low, why is this?

AB: Agreed, the school will be conducting more formal assessments moving forward, the school have been unable to conduct the formal assessments as they normally would be, due to Covid-19.

PT: Regarding the GCSE outcomes, are the Centre Assessed Grades set internally and then moderated externally, e.g., by other schools?

AB: The moderations are not really done against other schools. Examination boards can ask to see evidence, such as the children's work. The data will be scrutinised to see if it differs much from last year's data, which it will as the quality of teaching is improving year on year. The school can produce the body of evidence that will support the grade awarded to each student.

CL: Do the school use the 'Unit Award Programme' with AQA?

AB: We do have 'Unit Awards'. We have tended to use them with external children who come in. The school knows the value of 'Unit Awards' and will be looking at this in more depth once the level 2 & level 3 are embedded at Key stage 4 & 5.

CL: At our school we got 170-unit awards for our children over the Covid-19 lockdown. We found it really helped them with their motivation and engagement. It is a great motivational tool.

AB: This sounds like a really good idea; we will investigate this further.

ABB: As we start to come out of restrictions, is there a plan in place to get the children back into school for those that have struggled?

AB: This happens every single day. A text goes first, then a phone call. The cycle starts with tutors, then the senior leaders get involved. If we still have no attendance it is then referred to the Special Needs attendance service. This work will continue routinely.

## 9. Dashboard

Governors received the dashboard ahead of the meeting.

## 10. Portfolio Governor Reports

Governors received the following portfolio reports ahead of the meeting:

- i. Teaching & Learning
- ii. Business Development & Marketing

The Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection portfolio visit will be conducted by ABB with the Safeguarding lead in the Summer term.

**ACTION: ABB**

## 11. Governor Training and Development

The clerk advised the governors of the Educare training online platform that is available to them. The clerk encouraged governors to complete the safeguarding training course on Educare. PT and the clerk also discussed the possibility of the whole governing body receiving some in house training on specified subjects. Clerk to investigate the options for this. **ACTION: CLERK/PT**



## 12. OHC&AT Policies and Procedures

Governors noted the family policies and procedures approved by the OHC&AT board on 22 January 2021, which are available for their viewing on GovernorHub.

Governors noted that the school's admission procedure is on the school's website and will check it is compliant with the OHC&AT Admission policy.

AB undertook to share the induction procedure for new children with governors.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## 13. OHC&AT Governance Documentation

Governors noted the following documentation has been approved by the OHCAT Board and is available on GovernorHub:

- i. OHC&AT Scheme of Delegation
- ii. OHCAT Schedule of Responsibilities
- iii. OHC&AT Code of Conduct
- iv. OHC&AT Governor Induction Summary
- v. OHC&AT Guidance on DBS checks for Members, Trustees and Governors.

## 14. OHCAT Statutory Accounts

Governors noted that the 2019-20 Statutory Accounts were submitted by the deadline of 31.01.21.

## 15. Any Other Business

AB asked governors if they would be willing to come into school in the summer term and speak to the children about their careers. Governors agreed and the school will contact them with further details. **ACTION: AB**

PT asked that if it is possible that all the governors try to make an in person visit to the school before the next meeting. **ACTION: ALL**

## 16. Dates of Future Meetings

21 June 2021 at 4.30 pm.

## 17. Confidential Items

None.

**The meeting ended at 6.00PM**

**Minutes signed by Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>7.</b>	Sports Premium spend report for next meeting.	<b>AB</b>
<b>10.</b>	H&S and safeguarding portfolio to be conducted in summer term.	<b>ABB</b>
<b>11.</b>	Investigate some in house training for governors.	<b>CLERK/ PT</b>
<b>12.</b>	Governors to check the school's admission procedure on the website is compliant.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>12.</b>	Clerk to share School's induction procedure with governors. AB to send to clerk.	<b>CLERK/ AB</b>
<b>15.</b>	Governors to go into school to speak to students about their careers. AB to arrange contact with governors.	<b>AB</b>
<b>15.</b>	PT asked governors to try to do an in person visit into school before next LGB meeting.	<b>ALL</b>