

## WHITBY SECONDARY PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 5.30pm  
Scoresby Site

Present: Pen Cruz, Carolyn Watkinson, Andy Fyfe, Jane Mortimer, Jon Norden  
In attendance: Peter Geer (Clerk)

### MINUTES

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Mark Taylor.	
2	<b>Reminder of Confidentiality</b> Governors were reminded of the need to maintain confidentiality.	
3	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> Governors were reminded of the need to declare any interests and of their duty of confidentiality around governing body meetings.	
4	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> The Governors discussed the minutes of the meeting of the 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021.  <b>DECISION: The Governors approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chair.</b>	
5	<b>Matters Arising</b> <b>School Improvement Reports</b> The Governors would like Headteachers to forward the School Improvement Visit Reports to Governors as soon as they have been received rather than waiting for the next FGB meeting.	<b>AF / JN</b>
6	<b>Pupil Premium Strategy</b> The Governors considered and discussed Pupil Premium reports from CCW and from Eskdale.  <b>6.1 CCW</b> JN explained that there is a new format for the Pupil Premium strategy and so they are in the process of reviewing the strategy and preparing it in this new format.  In respect of the gap then disadvantaged pupils are around 0.5 behind in terms of Progress 8 and a similar level for Attainment 8. There has been work done to track the overall progress over the last four years and this shows that, while there has been an improvement in the performance of disadvantaged pupils, the gap has remained around the same.  JN noted that the comparator that Ofsted use and that they need to look at is the performance of disadvantaged pupils against non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.	

	<p>Andrew Whelan is the lead person at CCW for the PP Strategy and JN has been in discussions with him. The first steps are to review how previous expenditure was used and then what the upcoming priorities will be – these are likely to be around training and earlier intervention.</p> <p><i>The Governors asked</i> when the new PP strategy would be ready for them to consider, JN said that it should be in place by October.</p> <p><b>6.2 Eskdale</b>  AF explained that around 23% of the pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium. Jane Bradley has prepared the report which identified barriers to learning and then has three waves to tackle these. One of the barriers to learning which seems to be increasing is low resilience; particularly for boys.</p> <p>AF explained that Eskdale had been using Thinking Reading from 2017 but this does not seem to have made a real impact so they are looking at a new reading and literacy strategy for Year 7 and Year 8.</p> <p>AF explained that there is a significant gap with Progress 8 showing a grade difference between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged. Over the last few years the gap has widened as non-disadvantaged results have got stronger while disadvantaged has not changed. AF noted that one of his concerns is that historically Eskdale staff have not looked at the data often enough and in sufficient detail to become as conscious of these trends as they should have.</p> <p>The Governors noted that the 2021 results are based on teacher assessments, <i>the Governors asked</i> how these are validated, AF explained that the exam boards have requested evidence for specific pupils in named subjects and will quality assure using that.</p> <p><b>6.3 Overall</b>  Both Headteachers explained that Covid is certain to have increased the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. As a result, there will need to be a big focus on disadvantaged pupils going forward.</p> <p>The Governors felt that it might be helpful if Andrew Whelan and Jane Bradley as the respective leads were able to meet and pool their experience.</p> <p>The Governors discussed the need for a Link Governor for Pupil Premium.</p> <p><b>DECISION: Carolyn Watkinson to be interim Pupil Premium Link Governor, to be reviewed once more Governors are in post.</b></p>	<p><i>Holding to account</i></p> <p><i>Holding to account</i></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Reports on Catch-up Funding</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Eskdale</b>  AF explained that the spreadsheet has now been updated with more information about the four-wave approach.</p> <p>The first wave is to offer all disadvantaged pupils with 15 hours of tuition delivered through the DfE partners. So far there are 23 who are interested. The introduction of this has had to wait as there was a delay waiting for the DfE subsidised places.</p>	

	<p>AF explained that, with the tuition and the other interventions, there is a need to strike a balance and ensure that the additional work is manageable and productive.</p> <p><b>7.2 CCW</b></p> <p>JN said that funding was to set aside time for numeracy and literacy work for pupils who were behind – this is done internally rather than using external tuition, although staff absence has caused some delays to this. Funding has also been allocated for testing of Year 7 to establish a baseline. There are now regular meetings with the Directors of Learning to look at the pupils who need support and consider the interventions in place.</p> <p><i>See also item 8 below.</i></p>	
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<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Summer Schools</b></p> <p>JN and AF explained that, as part of the Covid Catch-up, they were looking at offering a summer school at the end of July for Year 6/7 as a joint project. In order to do this they will need DfE funding, this should be available although there is an unresolved question as to whether the funding can be used for the incoming Year 7.</p> <p>There will be numeracy and literacy work as part of the summer school but the real aim is to start the process of settling in the new pupils so that less needs to be done in September. AF and JN were conscious that it may be that the pupils who would most benefit from this will not attend.</p> <p><u>The Governors asked</u> about staffing for the summer school, AF and JN have not yet approached staff about this but they feel that there will be enough staff interested for it to go ahead.</p> <p><u>The Governors asked</u> about Year 6 transition generally, JN explained that the intention is to have a two day transition at the end of term but there is still a lot of uncertainty over this due to possible Covid restrictions.</p> <p><u>The Governors asked</u> about transition to the Sixth Form, AF and JN noted that the normal range of activities has had to be curtailed but work is being done to offer as much as possible.</p>	<p><i>Holding to account</i></p> <p><i>Holding to account</i></p> <p><i>Holding to account</i></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Governor Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Link Governor Reports</b></p> <p>JM presented a written report as the SEND Link Governor. The number of pupils with EHCPs is due to rise next year but the staffing numbers are reducing.</p> <p>CW presented a written report Remote Learning Link Governor. CW explained that the parents, students and staff at Eskdale mostly felt that remote learning worked well. Teachers were generally very impressed by the work of the support staff. Going forward there is potential to use Google Classroom and other resources outside of remote learning. One issue raised by staff was the feeling that many parents were struggling and that the mental health provision in Whitby is stretched. AF confirmed that a bid has been put to the Headteachers' Fund to increase the mental health support in Whitby.</p>	



11	<p><b>Opportunities Area Project</b> The Governors noted that the plan is that there will be a report on the progress of the Opportunities Area presented to them once per term.</p>	
12	<p><b>Update from Headteachers</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Meeting with Staff</b> AF confirmed that the session on Tuesday discussed the Vision and Values for the Federation. As part of this there were two activities, one on what they want to see for September to move students forward and one on what staff felt would help them move forward. There was a mixture of responses and AF has compiled these in a spreadsheet. The general impression is that staff want the Federation to work and just want to see it having a direct and measurable impact.</p> <p>JN explained that his session with staff went fine, he made an effort to ensure that the message to CCW staff was the same as to Eskdale staff. Staff now have an understanding of what the Federation is and why it is there, it is now about looking at how it can work for them.</p> <p>The Governor session with all staff is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> July although Covid restrictions may make this more complicated. The Chair will consider the heading for the meeting and how it will be delivered.</p> <p><b>12.2 Covid</b> JN and AF noted that the number of positive tests is still low but seems to be on the increase, parents and staff are being reminded of the need for regular testing.</p> <p><b>12.3 Security</b> JN explained that he has had a meeting with County about the security of the Caedmon site. JN is of the view that steps need to be taken now to improve security – in particular that the gate should be kept closed and locked. The best solution would be to have electric gates which can be controlled from reception but this requires a planning process and cables – it is likely that this would take some months and have a significant cost. As a safeguarding issue it is hoped that NYCC would cover some or all of this cost.</p> <p>In the meantime, JN would like to put a combination lock on the gate and keep it closed. This will be an inconvenience and be unpopular but JN feels that it is necessary for safeguarding. Governors asked that the school community should be clearly notified of this in advance of it happening.</p> <p><b>DECISION: The Governors approved the lock for the gate and would like JN to continue to investigate a more permanent solution.</b></p> <p><b>12.4 Alternative Provision</b> The consultation process has ended and the Selection Committee met, guided by Meg Anderson from NYCC. The Selection Committee is awaiting some information from NYCC before making a final decision.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>JN</p>
13	<p><b>Update from Chair</b></p> <p><b>13.1 Strategic Plan</b> The Chair explained that the Plan for the Strategic Leadership of the Federation was nearly complete and ready for comments.</p> <p><b>13.2 Governance</b> For the next meeting there will be a list of twenty questions sent out regarding Governance for Governors to consider.</p>	

<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p><b>14.1 Eskdale</b></p> <p>AF explained that there was a police visit following an allegation from a member of the school community. The police were satisfied with the school response and AF has informed the Heads of Years.</p> <p>There have been some instances of pupils reporting taking excess paracetamol before school which requires the school to call an ambulance. The school has responded to this and there is support and communication with parents.</p> <p>A whistleblowing report was made around a behaviour incident from a third party. The Chair was contacted and a National Leader of Governance was commissioned to investigate. The NLG will submit a written report but found there to be no further action required.</p> <p><b>14.2 CCW</b></p> <p><i>See also 12.3 above.</i></p>	
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Policies</b></p> <p>The Governors discussed the WSP Equality Information and Objectives policy.</p> <p><b>DECISION: The Governors approved and adopted the WSP Equality Information and Objectives Policy.</b></p>	
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Any other urgent business</b></p> <p><b>Publication of Minutes</b></p> <p>Full Governing Board minutes are now available to the public on the website. The Governors discussed how Committee Minutes should be published.</p> <p><b>DECISION: The Governors agreed that Committee minutes would be sent out on request.</b></p>	

**Signed by the Chair:**

*Pen Cruz*