

Minutes of a virtual Governing Body meeting of The Cedars Academy on Monday 1 March 2021 at 1.00pm

Governors Present: Gill Morton (Chair), Gordon Neale OBE (Vice Chair), Martin Flowers (Principal), Pamela Finn, Cllr Maria Hall, Daniel Hearne, Paul Hills, Naomi Kelly, Rachel Lane, Joseph McCabe, Liz Neale

Others Present: Michelle O'Reilly (Observer), Julie Vincent (Observer)

Clerk: Kim Ashford

The meeting started at 1.05pm and was quorate.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Joanne Carr and Stuart Kay. Consent was given for his absence.

2. Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

Maria Hall declared that she was a Governor at High Spen Primary School and also at CNTW NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Minutes of the last Governing Body meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020

3.1 Approval of the minutes

Governors received the minutes of the last Governing Body meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020, as circulated with the agenda via e-mail prior to the meeting. The minutes were **approved** as a correct record.

3.2 Matters arising (not appearing elsewhere on the agenda)

Item 13 – AOB: Wellness Centre:

It was noted that a virtual opening ceremony was held for the opening of the Wellness Centre, which has been posted on the school's website and Facebook page.

Item 13 – AOB: Poppy Appeal:

It was noted that one student raised £270 by knitting poppies.

4. Governing Body membership and vacancies

- It was noted that Julie Vincent and Michelle O'Reilly would remain Trustees only. They would both become Observers at Governing Body meetings.

- The Chair **confirmed** that the appointments of Stuart Kay and Paul Hills as Co-opted Governors will be approved at this afternoon's AGM.

5. Headteacher's Written Report

Governors received the Headteacher's report, as circulated with the agenda via e-mail prior to the meeting. Certain parts of the report were highlighted as follows:

- The school is currently at 80% attendance and will reopen fully on 8 March. On reopening, testing will take place in school as it is at present, with pupils having the option to administer self-testing if they so wish. All staff have the option of self-testing twice a week. There are also sufficient self-test kits to send these to students for administering at home, where there is a preference for this. Senior students have the option to wear face masks if they wish. A letter will be sent out to parents to explain the expectations regarding the reopening.
- There is currently 1 class of 8 places set aside for Reception age children.
- Ivy Lane will have a full complement of students for September 2021, and there are some places remaining at Walker Terrace.
- In terms of the consultation process, it was noted that parents/carers were happy with the proposed changes to Ivy Lane and Walker Terrace.
- The Unions and staff have been consulted on the proposed leadership restructure and feedback will be obtained on Monday 8 March, indicating whether approval has been agreed for the restructure. If this is the case, the recruitment process for the new leadership posts can begin, with a view to interviews taking place on 18 March.
- Building works for the Therapy Centre started in January as planned and are currently in progress, with completion planned for July.
- Regarding the budget, there are plans to hire an external accountant and the School Business Manager is awaiting costs, upon which the school will approach external organisations.
- The Chair stated that the school has met the deadline on submitting the accounts this year. Subsequently, an invoice has been received from the Local Authority in regard to payment for the service level agreement, which will be contested as the school has not been happy with the level of service that has been provided.
- A meeting had taken place with Steve Horne and Deborah Mason in relation to the consultation, which the Principal and the Chair had attended. Steve Horne had agreed in principle for Key Stage 4 to be moved across to Walker Terrace to create some space at Ivy Lane, and had agreed to the numbers proposed, which were 154 at Ivy Lane and 71 at Walker Terrace. The Principal has been awaiting written confirmation of the agreement in principle, however to date nothing has been received. Cllr Maria Hall stated that she will be attending a meeting with Steve Horne on Thursday 4 March and will raise this matter then.

6. Minutes of Sub-Committee meetings.

- Governors received the minutes of the following Sub-Committee meetings, for information:
 - Business Partnership & Development Group, 5 February 2021
 - Curriculum & Standards, 22 February 2021
 - Finance & Staffing (Resources), 22 February 2021
- The Principal stated that during the Business Partnership and Development Group meeting, a proposal had been put forward to support the school adopting a school dog. There are outstanding questions around this relating to logistics, finance, and other finer details, which will be discussed at an upcoming meeting involving the Principal, the Chair, and members of the senior leadership team. It was noted that there are difficulties associated with adopting an animal within the school, whether as a therapy dog or a pet, not least with regard to fear of dogs and/or allergies to dogs, and that a risk assessment would need to be carried out.

7. Dates and times of future meetings

The following dates and times for future meetings were **agreed**:

- Summer term Governing Body meeting
Monday 21 June 2021, 5.00pm (via Teams)
- Summer term Curriculum and Pupils Committee
Monday 7 June 2021, 5.00pm to 6.00pm
- Summer term Finance and Staffing Committee
Monday 7 June 2021, 6.00pm to 7.00pm

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1.34pm.

Date.....

Signed.....