



BOLDER ACADEMY
FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES

Company Registered Number: 8932893

Chair: Andrew Dodge
Clerk: Rebecca Wilson (RW)
Date of meeting: 19th May 2020 at 8:00am
Venue: Remote meeting due to COVID-19

Attendance:

Name	Governor	Other	Present / Apologies / Absent
Rob Collie (RC)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Andrew Dodge (AD)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Victoria Eadie (VE)	Appointed by Trust	Also a Member	Present
Bethan Jones (BJ)	Staff Governor		Present
Jo Killingley (JK)	Parent Governor		Present
Wendy Smith (WS)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Heidi Swidenbank (HS)	Ex-officio	Headteacher	Present
Eileen Sheedy (ES)	Appointed by Trust		Present
Birinder Tember (BT)	Parent Governor		Apologies

The meeting was declared quorate.

Agenda item

Action

1. Maths at Bolder

Anjum Palumbo outlined the teaching of maths at Bolder; her presentation has also been filed with the other curriculum information. She outlined the department and explained that the curriculum is closely entwined with the Maths Mastery curriculum. Anjum outlined the intent of the curriculum as well as the three key principals:

- Conceptual understanding
- Language and communication
- Mathematical thinking

She explained that sequencing of the curriculum was key and supports the development of understanding. Anjum outlined the Bolder curriculum and detailed Year 7 transition and progress. The curriculum provides both depth and challenge, and also supports low prior attainers by maintaining a broad overview.

Assessment has impact and is supported by weekly online testing. Feedback gives students the opportunity to improve and some feedback is immediate. A couple of quarterly assurance reviews have taken place; feedback was positive and key findings were detailed to Governors. Maths Mastery is fully aligned with Ofsted expectations. Anjum outlined Year 7 data which is linked to GCSE targets, and specifically considered PP gap, gender gap and SEND gap; Year 8 data was also outlined. Current initiatives were also covered, as well as the next steps for the department.

Q: A Governor questioned why Maths Mastery was chosen and queried the other choices that were available, recognising that there has been some criticism of the scheme.

A: Anjum explained that the success of Mastery depends on implementation and acknowledged that this has been inconsistent across schools. The whole system must be embedded to be fully effective, recognising that some schools have not adopted it across departments. Anjum highlighted that sequencing does support student adaptability and confirmed that the department is fully committed to this programme.

Q: A Governor asked how the current requirement for home learning has impacted, recognising that some students have limited access to IT.

A: Anjum recognised the importance of getting students to engage with feedback. This is not easy with home learning but is being addressed by email. For students with limited IT access hard copies of work is available. Staff are doing what they can, recognising that the majority of students are engaged.

Anjum Palumbo left the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for BT.

3. Declaration of interest

No Governor declared an interest that may conflict with the meeting agenda. Governors were also asked if they had any changes to their declaration of pecuniary interest.

4. Minutes of previous meeting (31 Mar 20)

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes and emailed them for filing.

5. Matters arising/actions

All points from the previous meeting were closed or highlighted for discussion later in the agenda.

6. Annual review of complaints

AD referred to page 4 of the Headteacher's summary update and confirmed that the school has received five formal complaints this year. All have been resolved at Stage 1 and cover a variety of concerns.

7. HT Performance Management

AD confirmed that the same group (RC, AD, VE) will complete Headteacher Performance Management and that if possible, David Brockie will be appointed to oversee.

8. GDPR for Governors

AD highlighted the availability of GDPR for Governors which is an online training package; interested Governors should contact RW.

9. HT summary report

HS confirmed the focus on student engagement and support during lockdown. Student engagement has been closely monitored and varies. All teaching staff are engaging regularly with students and weekly phone calls have helped. A central point of contact has also been created where staff can highlight areas of concern. All forms detailing safeguarding concerns are logged on CPOMS which ensures trends can be monitored. Speech and language one to one sessions have continued virtually. Staff have debated the best approach regarding virtual lessons, recognising that one size does not fit all; the approach is changing and evolving each week.

Q: A Governor questioned what is meant by virtual staff presence for lessons.

A: HS explained that this varies by subject. Science and history have videoed lessons, as has BJ for maths. Videos tend to be fifteen minutes long and students can pause the lesson.

Q: A Governor questioned the level of engagement.

A: HS confirmed about 60% of students are regularly engaging.

Q: A Governor asked if any students were having financial or technical issues.

A: HS recognised the significant support received from Sky regarding internet connection and the provision of dongles. A few students do not have internet access or are having to share a laptop. Where needed, hard copies of work are also sent home; this requirement is relatively small. RC suggested that HS list the requirement and he will see if Sky can support.

HS

VE highlighted that at TPET when a teacher is online student interaction is much better and teachers are encouraged to share positive virtual practices. HS confirmed that science and history are leading on this piece, and she is reluctant to be too prescriptive with teachers. Staff have a good understanding of student needs and how best to provide support. VE highlighted that she has found a common lesson format supports student engagement.

Q: A Governor questioned progress of the new build as well as the split site arrangements for next year.

A: HS confirmed that the progress against the new building is good. Progress with The Green School for Girls has been slower, although progress is being made and no issues are anticipated. HS also highlighted that a food tech room will be installed at 390 London Road for September.

Q: A Governor queried sports facilities, noting that students have been at home for so long.

A: HS confirmed that she wanted to use Grasshoppers; this has been agreed and will be funded.

Q: A Governor recognised that the split site with The Green School for Girls was almost there operationally and questioned the financial situation regarding the funding of additional staff.

A: HS explained that this was still under review. She has reviewed the budget with Ndullee Stevens and can confirm that staffing can be covered without additional funding if necessary.

Q: A Governor questioned the number of creative subjects available for Year 9.

A: HS confirmed that to date creative arts have been offered on a rotational basis; more will be available at Year 9.

Q: A Governor questioned the number of key workers and vulnerable students who have attended school.

A: HS confirmed that she has seen an increase. In the past a maximum of four have attended, this has been increasing with eight on site today. Students in school will complete the work that has been set online, with additional support provided when needed.

Q: A Governor questioned the input from Children's Services.

A: HS explained that there is one student who the school has not been able to contact; several referrals have taken place and the police have been informed. A consultant from the LA is also working with the school. HS confirmed that she exhausts all channels before escalating concerns regarding a student.

10. Pupil Premium review

The Board reviewed the Pupil Premium Review that had been circulated with the meeting paperwork.

11. Reopening schools – the issues

ES updated the Board on opening plans and confirmed that she has about 30 pupils attend school each day. The maximum has been 65 pupils, with staff covering on a rota. Of all staff and pupils, one member of staff has been tested for COVID-19; the test was negative. ES confirmed that staff will work in small class bubbles, with half of pupils expected to attend school. ES explained that her school has been open throughout lockdown, and now feels that she is in a difficult situation regarding the current argument from some that it is not safe to open schools.

VE agreed with the point raised by ES and confirmed that TPET has been open throughout lockdown for a substantial number of students; 380 students have been invited to attend school, with about a third coming into school. The main concern seems to come from schools that have not been open during lockdown. VE also highlighted that the most disadvantaged students are the most worried about attending school.

WS explained that at her school the experience has been different. Not many pupils have attended, and the school is taking a measured approach. At nursery there is not sufficient space or facilities to manage the required groupings.

HS highlighted that the focus has been on the support of Year 6 transitioning to Year 7; she is considering on site induction as well as online engagement.
Q: A Governor asked how many students can be in the building at any one time.
A: HS believed about 90-100 students.
Q: A Governor questioned the impact on COVID-19 on the relationship with The Green School for Girls.
A: HS explained that they have an element of responsibility, although Bolder is ultimately responsible. Risk assessments are used to manage the situation and are constantly evolving.
ES recognised that staff from Bolder have called Year 6 pupils which has been helpful regarding transition support.

12. Chair's verbal report

AD confirmed that at the request of the DfE he had signed a back to back letter before starting construction works in April. He highlighted that he has also rationalised all policies and established a policy tracker, which highlights statutory policies. Governors can access policies on the website, or via SharePoint where a copy of the tracker is also filed. Internal policies are held by the school. AD highlighted that he has also emailed three students their platinum award. He confirmed that he has completed safeguarding training and RW highlighted that she will circulate the link to RC, WS and JK for completion.

RW, RC,
WS, JK

13. GB Development Session, 9 Jun 20

The Board supported the desire to run an Ofsted Development Session and agreed to delay this until the autumn term. Governors recognised the value of briefings from curriculum leads at each FGB and acknowledged that Ofsted are unlikely to visit schools in the near future.

14. Policies

Governors ratified the policies listed below:

- Relationships & Sex Education Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Data Protection
- Managing Allegations Against Staff

ES recognised that the definition in the Anti-Bullying Policy is very clear which is positive. It was recognised that there was overlap across the Data Protection policies, noting that the school is adopting all policies that are recommended by Judicium who advise the school.

15. Finance paperwork

RW confirmed that Governors have seen the finance paperwork up to April.

16. AOB

Referring to the Visits Policy, AD proposed adding that any concerns should be raised with HS, not a member of staff and if a governor is also a parent, any concerns regarding their own child's education should be raised at a separate meeting. The proposed addition was agreed.

BJ highlighted that from a staff perspective, the school has been very clear regarding the requirement relating to COVID-19. HS also thanked AD for his contribution to the policy tracker which was very much appreciated.

Next meeting date

- Tue 30 Jun 20 at 8am, likely to be a remote meeting

Meeting ended at 9:30 am.

Signature: 

Name of Chair: Andrew Dodge

Date: 30th June 2020