

# South Bank Multi Academy Trust

## Trust Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 6.30pm at Scarcroft Primary School

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Present:	Ian Wiggins	Chair of Trustees
	Edwin Thomas	
	Sue Laycock	
	Martyn Sibley	
	Pat Boyle	
	Rob Bennett	
	Bethan Ellis	
	Donna Smith	
Natalie Wong		
		Trustees
In attendance:	Mark Hassack	Chief Executive Officer
	Michael Gidley	Chief Finance Officer
	Katie Dent	Director of HR
	Zoe Pickard	Executive Officer
	Sophie Triffitt	Clerk to the Board of Trustees

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### 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CHANGES TO BUSINESS INTEREST FORMS (*PREVIOUSLY ISSUED*)

#### Absence

2.1 There were no apologies.

#### Declarations of Interest (previously issued)

2.2 Trustees were provided with business interest forms to complete.

### 3 CEO UPDATE (*PREVIOUSLY ISSUED*)

3.1 The CEO updated trustees on the Scarcroft Ofsted inspection noting that it had so far been a very busy and robust inspection, but the inspectors had taken time to get to know the school. The focus for the first day was quality of education with deep dives for Early Reading, Maths, History and Art.

3.2 Early Reading: Inspectors fed back seeing strong but varied practice, fidelity to the Little Wandle scheme, the Phonics Champion was 'superb'. There were questions around action

for those not keeping up, but the CEO emphasised that being six weeks in it felt too premature to move children from the main group into smaller group work. Phonics needs more modelling with repetition and sound but reading was strong and inspectors saw a love of reading in school.

- 3.3 History: Inspectors fed back that there are a number of areas to develop including assessment, but their findings matched what leadership said were areas for development and the CEO emphasised that curriculum is never done and there is ongoing refining of practice. Lower school children were stronger than upper school for demonstrating memory of learning.
- 3.4 Maths: Inspectors fed back that Maths presented strongly through power maths, a systematic approach, effective pedagogy and positive attitudes towards teaching Maths. They did pick up that some children should be moved on faster when they have it.
- 3.5 Art: Inspectors fed back that Art is a real strength of the school, skills are developed in teachers, there is expertise in leadership, approach is evidence based, lessons are 'breathlessly paced', children are taught and signposted very well and use of sketchbooks is excellent. They felt there was a real sense that the children's knowledge of art is making a difference to their wider lives.
- 3.6 SEND: Inspectors fed back that SEND was coming over strongly, but they did flag changes with the Local Authority and the speed of getting referrals, there were also negative parent views around SEND and the LA processes.
- 3.7 Overall there was a strong picture of quality of education.
- 3.8 Personal Development: Behaviour was raised but was not a major cause for concern.
- 3.9 EYFS: Feedback was that Early Year's was strong.
- 3.10 Leadership and Management: the inspectors appreciated the open and honest approach and staff were positive about leaders, workload, wellbeing and support.
- 3.11 The timetable for the second day includes meetings with various groups including TA's, governors and trustees.
- 3.12 Trustees recorded thanks to the Headteacher and the school team.
- 3.13 The CEO informed trustees that the draft report for the York High School inspection had been received and await the final report to publish.
- 3.14 A Trustee asked if there is a communication plan for the inspection report release. The CEO confirmed he was working with Impact for a press release and banners will be produced. The CEO will also write to other Trust schools about the York High School inspection outcome.
- 3.15 A Trustee asked if there would be any positioning of the Trust impact on the inspections. The CEO felt that it should be school news for the local community and there can then be a wider Trust release.

- 3.16 A Trustee noted that if Scarcroft move from outstanding to good it would not be seen by all as a success. The CEO understood this and explained that previous Scarcroft judgement was from a previous Ofsted framework, but nevertheless there was potential for the school to be outstanding, which would be a longer piece of work.
- 3.17 The CEO made trustees aware that the Trust could be asked to participate in a Multi Academy Trust Summary Evaluation this academic year.
- 3.18 **Action:** CEO to circulate a video explaining the MATSE process.
- 3.19 The CEO explained the need for increased alternative provision in the city. York High School have the STAR Centre currently funded by York Schools and Academies Board and there has been conversation with the CYC Director of Education around continuing this provision separate to York High through establishing an independent school with its own URN funded through commission places. The CEO had set up an alternative provision previously and the idea is at the exploratory stage and would need an initial guarantee of revenue.
- 3.20 A Trustee asked how the alternative provision would benefit the Trust. The CEO explained that there is a significant need for an alternative provision and there could be a financial model that is favourable to Trust schools / children and as the Trust would be in control of the admission policy there could be ringfenced places.
- 3.21 A Trustee asked if there had been trend analysis for this type of provision. The CEO explained that outside of Danesgate and their satellite provisions there is no quality provision, and the aim would be to have a mainstream parallel curriculum to support these children returning back to a mainstream classroom.
- 3.22 A Trustee asked if there is capacity within the Trust Exec Team to establish this provision. The CEO explained that the Exec Team have the expertise and have been involved in this type of project before, but it would be integral to have the right person in post as a Head of Centre.
- 3.23 A Trustee asked if alternative provision is mainly accessed by secondary age children. The CEO confirmed that is the case but that there is an emerging need at primary level and early intervention is crucial.
- 3.24 Trustees supported the exploration of an alternative provision with the aim of early intervention and supporting children to return to mainstream classrooms. Trustees emphasised the need for this to be done in partnership with CYC. The CEO assured trustees it would be done in partnership with CYC.

#### **4 TRUST 3 YEAR PLAN (PREVIOUSLY ISSUED)**

- 4.1 The CEO confirmed that progress against the plan would be reported back regularly and there will be focus on the areas Trustees prioritised at the away day.
- 4.2 A Trustee questioned the inclusion of 'financially viable' within the 'broad, balanced and financially viable curriculum' and asked why it is important to include this on the curriculum item when the whole plan needs to be financially viable. The CEO explained the Curriculum

Led Financial Planning model and the need to staff to the curriculum the school wants to deliver. The CFO added that all areas in the plan are within the CLFP metrics and when the core curriculum is financially viable it gives some freedom for the wider provision.

- 4.3 A Trustee noted that they would not want the financial element to be the curriculum driver over broad and balanced.
- 4.4 A Trustee suggested that it was helpful to embed the strategy before confirming the measurables but emphasised the need to ensure these measures are defined after the strategy is in place.
- 4.5 Trustees requested that the plan captures that schools will all have their individuality. The CEO explained that the schools are working together to develop the common areas of working / curriculum but there remain areas for schools to be individual.

## **5 HR AND FINANCE STRATEGIC ISSUES – CONFIDENTIAL**

### CFO Update

Academic Year 2022-23 Way Forward (previously issued)

Term Time Annual Leave Formulas (previously issued)

- 5.1 Recorded as a separate confidential minute.
- 5.2 Sue Laycock left the meeting at 8.30pm.

## **6 GROWTH STRATEGY**

- 6.1 The CEO reported that he had conversations with the Regional School Director's Office and CYC and asked trustees their view on incorporating schools from out of region (North Yorkshire and East Riding)
- 6.2 Trustees felt that the strength of the Trust is the locality of schools and questioned how they could replicate that with one school or a hub of small groups geographically far away. A Trustee suggested defining a geographically manageable radius.
- 6.3 A Trustee suggested the need to understand / consider the civic mission of the Trust.
- 6.4 A Trustee asked if there is any understanding of what went wrong for trusts who took on a geographically distant school. The CEO explained that it would have been due to leadership and capacity.
- 6.5 A Trustees noted the unique nature of the Trust being the only secular trust in York and a Trustee questioned the importance of this and who considers it a unique selling point.
- 6.6 Trustees agreed that the greatest factor in agreeing to take on a school would be a culture alignment.
- 6.7 Trustees agreed they would consider schools outside of York but would need to be a good fit for the Trust and geographically sensible. They would need to add value and not dilute the current provision.
- 6.8 **Action:** Chair to circulate growth strategy.

6.9 **Action:** Include Growth Framework on the next agenda.

## **7 MAT SUMMARY EVALUATION**

7.1 Recorded earlier in the agenda.

## **8 SAFEGUARDING DASHBOARD**

8.1 Trustees were asked to direct any questions to the Executive Officer.

## **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY OVERVIEW (PREVIOUSLY ISSUED)**

9.1 There were no questions on the report.

## **10 MEMBER MEETING REPORT**

10.1 The Chair noted that the Member meeting had been rescheduled to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **11 EDUCATION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

11.1 The Education and Standards Committee had met on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## **12 FINANCE UPDATE**

Year End Finance Update (previously issued)

12.1 The CFO clarified that 2.2 should read deficit in year.

12.2 There were no questions on the report.

GAG Funding

12.3 There was no update to record.

Reserves Policy

12.4 There was no update to record.

Risk Register (previously issued)

12.5 There were no questions on the risk register.

## **13 SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding Trustee Report (previously issued)

13.1 There were no questions on the trustee report.

Safeguarding and Safety Working Group Report

13.2 The meeting had been rescheduled.

## **14 TRUSTEE BUSINESS**

Training (previously issued)

14.1 The Chair asked trustees to complete training.

Training Requirements (previously issued)

14.2 **Resolution:** Trustees agreed the updates to the training requirements.

Sub Committee Membership and Trustee Roles (previously issued)

14.3 There was no update to record.

## **15 LGB BUSINESS**

Matters from LGB

15.1 There were no matters for discussion.

LGB Appointments and Resignations (previously issued)

15.2 **Resolution:** Trustees noted the governor movements and approved the Chair and Vice Chair appointments.

15.3 The Chair reported that the Millthorpe Chair of Governors was stepping down as Chair but will remain as a governor and succession plans are in place.

## **16 MINUTES OF TRUST BOARD MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 (PREVIOUSLY ISSUED)**

16.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and approved.

## **17 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION PLAN**

17.1 The safeguarding update was added to the agenda pack and the trustee recruitment action remained ongoing.

## **18 POLICIES**

Education and Standards Committee Terms of Reference (previously issued)

Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference (previously issued)

Safeguarding and Safety Working Group Terms of Reference (previously issued)

18.1 **Resolution:** The terms of reference were being reviewed to reflect the new Scheme of Delegation and Executive Team but were agreed in the interim.

Trustee Code of Conduct (previously issued)

18.2 **Resolution:** Trustees approved the Trustee Code of Conduct.

Governance Manual (previously issued)

18.3 The governance manual would be reviewed and updated.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (previously issued)

18.4 **Resolution:** Trustees had approved the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy by e mail and ratified that approval at the meeting.

Low Level Safeguarding Concerns Policy (previously issued)

18.5 **Resolution:** Trustees had approved the Low-Level Safeguarding Concerns Policy by e mail and ratified that approval at the meeting.

Safer Recruitment Policy (previously issued)

18.6 **Resolution:** Trustees had approved the Safer Recruitment Policy by e mail and ratified that approval at the meeting.

## 19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 The CFO made Trustees aware of the new Trust Handbook and the link was circulated to Trustees.

## 20 FUTURE MEETING DATES (PREVIOUSLY ISSUED)

Education and Standards Committee - Tuesday 15th November 2022

Finance and Audit Committee - Tuesday 29th November 2022

Trust Board - Wednesday 7th December 2022

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Meeting Decisions
Trustees agreed the updates to the training requirements.
Trustees approved the LGB Chair and Vice Chair appointments.
Trustees agreed the committee terms of reference (interim until they were reviewed to reflect the new Scheme of Delegation and Executive Team).
Trustees approved the Trustee Code of Conduct.
Trustees ratified the approval of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
Trustees ratified the approval of the Low-Level Safeguarding Concerns Policy.
Trustees ratified the approval of the Safer Recruitment Policy.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Item	By	Action	Date
13.6	Trustees	Proactively try to recruit a trustee with finance / accountancy expertise.	Sep 2022

18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Item	By	Action	Date
3.19	CEO	Circulate a video explaining the MATSE process.	Oct 2022
6.8	Chair	Circulate growth strategy.	Oct 2022
6.9	Clerk	Include Growth Framework on the next agenda.	Dec 2022

**Approved at Trust Board on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

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