



## St Laurence School Academy Trust

### Full Governing Body meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 March 2023 at the school

**Governors present** – I Maher Roberts (Chair), K Kilgallen (Vice Chair), M Smith, L Ash, M Dooley, L Wicks, P Robertson, J Abecassis, P Lambert, S Cooper, D Roberts, M Farrer (Headteacher)

**Apologies** – M Lee

**Also** – R Beesley (clerk)

Paul Robertson was welcomed to his first FGB meeting.  
There were no further declarations of interest

**23/22 [Minutes](#) of previous meeting 08 02 23**, there were no specific actions. These were signed off for accuracy.

#### **24/22 [Head's report](#)**

**Recruitment**, aside from those mentioned in the report, there are adverts for a maths teacher (with TLR), teacher of PE, teacher of DT, teacher of science, 2<sup>nd</sup> in English.

**PE review**, this had included pupil voice with governors, an SLT discussion has followed. The report would be presented to Standards.

**SDP**, an SLT review has commenced with a look at the external reports from SIAMS, Challenge Partners and Ofsted. A 3-year plan would be the focus of the SLT away day.

The school would have less external visit reports in the near future.

#### **Challenge Partners**

**Question**, the Even Better If statements and how they will be addressed?

R – this is part of the process; it is a peer review with constructive feedback. Both reports will inform the new SDP. For example, assessment in Key Stage 3 is an area to be addressed.

**Question**, the quality of feedback and consistency in homework, will that be in the SDP?

R – Ofsted were clear that Marking and Feedback was a strength for the subjects of their deep dive. From September, this had been a school focus. This was a disappointment to note therefore that in some subject areas or amongst some staff members, there was still an inconsistency. Middle leaders needed to have the challenging conversations.

**Condition Improvement Fund**, there has been no update.

**Strike action**, there have been 4 days of action with the majority of staff in the NEU and others not wishing to cross the picket line. The year 11 mocks were reorganised and this was successful, the only absences were due to illness. A disrupted routine was the key effect. More strike action is planned. The pay increase is not funded.

## 25/22 MAT discussion

This part of the meeting was confidential and is minuted elsewhere.

## 26/22 Committee minutes & update from Chairs

[Standards](#) (SC), there was a presentation on SEND with a note of a high pressure of demand from September '23, the PP gap and maths attainment continued to be issues in year 10, an issue of MFL uptake was noted – to be on the Standards term 5 agenda (and to be in the SDP), year 13 are currently at predicted average grades of B- (B last year) – various issues might conspire against this, LW will be the careers link governor. **Action** – governors to be invited to the next meeting, clerk

**Question**, what is the increase in SEND demand?

R – in year 11, 10 students with EHCPs are leaving. But more are arriving into year 7 (potentially 17 but some would have a special school place, 8-9 are likely).

**Question**, MFL numbers, what is the feeder school experience, maybe this is mixed?

R – this would be taken up at the meeting. There are 31 feeder primaries, all offer French.

[FFE](#) (KK), governors were encouraged to read the Benchmarking [document](#) from auditors, some key building issues were highlighted including the proposal for a Multi-Use Games Area and more, not just improved toilet facilities. The budget was on target.

[C&E](#) (PL), there had been a very successful wellbeing fortnight, with plans for next year. The Drugs, etc policy was a strong student centred policy with links to PSHE. The Online Safety policy and Equalities statement were reviewed.

**Comment**, a sentence in the minutes about myConcern needs to be clarified. **Action** - clerk

**Safeguarding**, the system of raising concerns was robust and even those at a low-level are triaged and responded to. The example of bullying was mentioned. The main concerns are low mood, low self-esteem, poor mental health, self-harm and access to pornography (signalled by the Smoothwall system) (note that [Strategy](#) minutes are also in the folder)

## 27/22 School policies agreed by committee this term, to be noted

Exam related policies

Homework

Drugs & the management of drug related incidents

Environment & Sustainability strategy

Equalities statement and objectives

Leave of absence

## 28/22 Governing Body matters

Membership update, Paul Robertson was a new parent governor and will be on FFE. He introduced himself.

Matthew Horan and Alistair Dixon-Patterson were recommended to join the FGB as SLSAT nominees. It was suggested that ADP be co-opted. A vacancy would remain for the SLSAT to nominate.

Another self-nominated person was not recommended to be a governor nominee for the SLSAT. A letter would be sent.

- a. [Training](#), note of options for governors

Farewell and thanks, to Ingrid from the FGB. A presentation was made.

**29/22 AOB – suggestion** to consider an official opening for the **Science Extension**, from ML presented in his absence due to work.

**Comments**, it was suggested that as the extension had been open for some time and that two cycles of open evenings for years 7 and 12, plus new intake evenings had been held, the time for an official opening had passed. A soft opening with refreshments for those who had contributed to the funding of the equipping of the classrooms might be organised. There could be a partnership with the Music Centre's annual science fair. **Action** – clerk to find out about contributors.

The meeting closed at 1840.