



TRUST BOARD LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Learning Committee of the Trust Board of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust held on Tuesday 2nd March 2022 at 6.00pm.

Present	Yes/No	In attendance	Yes/No
Mrs H Casson	Yes	Mr D Buckley, CEO	Yes
Mr J Crisp - Chair	Yes	Mrs K Williams, Clerk	Yes
Ms R Books	Yes		

Summary of matters for the Trust Board

- a) Trustees have reviewed the revised Headteacher's reports. Any further comments about the new reports will be emailed to the CEO.
- b) The Community Relations Trustee has started to visit each of the 6 schools.
- c) Middle Leaders subject snapshot reports are in the development phase.
- d) The MAT Student Council is engaged with the Everyone's Invited agenda and have provided valuable and constructive feedback on the anonymous reporting tool.

16. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17. **Declaration of Business or Pecuniary Interest and Academy-related parties - update on any changes since completion of written declaration**

None.

18. **Approval of minutes from meeting held on 13th December 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 having been circulated in advance, were agreed as an accurate record and will be signed.

19. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

20. **Apologies for Absence**

All Trustees were present.

21. **Review the effectiveness of information, advice and guidance across the Trust's schools**

- a) Mr Buckley advised that the Headteacher's report has been revised into a single page document and feedback on this is a positive step forward. The view is that we are trying to get all data RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated. We have tried to do this for all indicators on the report and this should focus the attention of governors.
- b) Mr Buckley explained that we still need reports on "snap shots" of specific areas of each school so we have started discussions on how to do this for subjects and it is critical that we have this in place. Previously the only reliable information at secondary level was exam results which is a little to late. We are considering what is a manageable single page summary for governors and Trustees. We need to have some way of giving details on the progress being made and this should be constructed by middle leaders.

- c) **A Trustee noted that this is still a huge amount of information and queried what do governors need to know and what is the top-level information that Trustees need.** Mr Buckley advised it is the governors' role to know the areas of weakness in their school and how they identify the progress being made. **Trustees suggested that subjects are RAG rated but also queried how consistent is the judgement being made when completing such reports. Trustees suggested that a RAG rated document would promote conversations in governance meetings and a simple single sheet with a narrative would be most useful.**
- d) **A Trustee asked if the RAG rating on the Headteacher's Reports is being cross checked across the Trust for consistency.** Mr Buckley advised that this was discussed at MSLT (MAT Senior Leadership Team) meetings and they should be exactly the same which will make it easier for governors and Trustees.
- e) **A Trustee asked if the RAG rating is tracked back to the SEF (Self Evaluation Framework) or SDP (School Development Plan).** Mr Buckley advised that there is autonomy in schools and the framework that operates in them. The schools are all using the same format SDP and this year, all schools are focusing on the same aims but the schools with different issues need to be able to take ownership of them. **A Trustee noted that the consistency of approach is the main aim.** A Trustee noted the use of a single data system in some education Trusts which was explained. It was advised that this system is used for individual settings for providing data and a narrative is then added. This was discussed at length. A single indicator will be discussed further with MSLT.
- f) In terms of deeper dives in Peer reviews, we are looking at subject deeper dives and this would share insight into practice. For the next planned review, we are looking at physical geography and all six schools are committed to doing lessons on the same concept in the same week. We are expecting to see a range of conceptual understanding in mixed ability classes in secondary which may be comparable to primary or may tell us a great deal about how misconceptions in the same concept appear differently for different age groups. We have paired up primary and secondary colleagues. There will be a review to see if the concept tracker works and how we take children through progression. Mr Buckley explained that staff are engaged with the professional discussions that this will lead to.
- g) **A Trustee asked if deep dives already take place.** Mr Buckley advised that we have only undertaken a deep dive into Maths so far and this required a lot of resources. Maths was chosen as there was an issue in Maths across the Trust. **A Trustee asked why just a concept has been chosen rather than a whole subject.** Mr Buckley advised that when deeper dives have been completed previously, we have not looked specifically in enough detail at how pedagogy has been approached. **A Trustee asked for reassurance on the processes being used and the intent.** Mr Buckley advised that there are areas of weakness and when asking Middle Leaders to RAG rate where the subjects are, we need to be able to support the areas where issues are identified. We need to evaluate the subjects which are doing well to learn from them to be able to help us identify and support the more difficult areas.
- h) **A Trustee suggested that some data should be included in the Headteacher Report such as the number of SEND children.** Mr Buckley explained that any governor or Trustee feedback can be emailed to him. Mr Buckley advised that the TOLT (Trust Operational Leadership Team) group will be providing a similar report to the Headteacher's Report on H&S and Premises operations. Mr Buckley added that finance documents are also RAG rated.
- i) Mr Buckley explained the everyone's invited agenda work that has been underway across the Trust. A survey in 2010 showed 70% of girls in school experience daily sexist comments and a further survey was undertaken again more recently and the figures were shocking. We did not want to do a knee jerk reaction to this and wanted to have measured approach with a five-year plan instead. This started with going to the student council with a set of proposed questions which would be included in an anonymous survey. The feedback from the primary children suggested that they wanted to have a "worry monster" mechanism.

- j) The secondary students wanted to have a longer debate on this and their views. The secondary students wanted an anonymous system and posters will be displayed in the schools which includes a poster competition that will take place next term and will be relaunched again in September. The students wanted to use the most commonly reported issue for a discussion topic in tutor time.
- k) Trustees noted the quality of the collection of views from the student council and the constructive feedback they have provided. **A Trustee asked how do schools get a balance of being anonymous and encouraging students to be open with issues.** Mr Buckley advised that students have very clear views on this topic. We can go back to the Student Council if this reporting tool does not work and it can be revised as needed.
- l) Mr Buckley explained that we want to convert toilets to non-gender specific. The input and investment needed is quite considerable. The grounds staff have been busy with Dobwalls nursery and so we have not been able to make significant progress on obtaining estimates for this work.
- m) Mr Buckley advised that in terms of degenderizing the whole school environment, we have debated what we need to do to make ground on this and the first step is to remove gender terms from praise statements. We have unfortunately not made much progress on this as there is general recognition that such habit changing is a long-term goal. **A Trustee asked if we are liaising with any external organisations for guidance on this such as the Intercom Trust.** Mr Buckley advised that we have done research around this. Our aim is that people don't have labels applied to them. Mr Buckley added that we do not have a blame culture and so will be open to the fact that habits take a while to change and in the interim it is inevitable that mistakes will be made. Mr Buckley advised that algorithms on the internet mean that 70% of the content children are viewing on YouTube may not be chosen by them but may be leading them into increasingly extreme sites. The Prevent strategy currently does not monitor radical groups that incite gendered abuse and we need to look at how we counteract this.
- n) In the first stage of revising the five-year plan, we have agreed a set of strategies and Trustees need to consider and feedback their views. The Clerk will circulate.

Action: The Clerk

22. Review of the effectiveness of links with external agencies

- a) IAG should be reviewed across the schools and needs to be reported again. **A Trustee suggested that Gatsby benchmarks should be included on the HT Report.**

23. Discuss community relations strategy work

- a) Ms Brooks advised that there are two areas in the 5-year plan which relate to community relations. Ms Brooks has booked to visit the 6 schools to meet staff and understand how the schools operate. It is valuable to understand what the gaps are in this area of work for the Trust. The definition of "community relations" differs in each school.
- b) **A Trustee suggested that the intent of external people visiting the school is sometimes a concern and queried what checks need to be in place. A Trustee queried the impact of community relations for the learners, schools and the Trust as a whole.** Ms Brooks noted from her visits so far that Liskeard want to build better relationships with the feeder schools and this is mutually beneficial. Trustees acknowledged the benefit of Ms Brooks visits and Mr Buckley advised that the schools have appreciated meeting with Ms Brooks.

24. Annual review of the Risk Register for the Learning Committee sections

- a) Mr Buckley advised that the current Risk Register is up to date. The conversations are now about the new five-year Strategic Plan being formed into a new Risk Register. We need to look at the five-year plan and then decide which risk should sit with each committee. We need to consider which particular objectives should be owned by a particular committee or should committees have a cross section for ownership.

25. **Review of Policies**
a) None.
26. **Guidance/instructions to LGCs**
a) Governors can continue to feedback back any comments that they have on the revised Headteacher's Reports.
b) Governors should focus their attention on the RAG rating used on the new Headteacher's Reports which should help prompt discussions during governor meetings and visits to schools.
27. **Summary of matters for the Trust Board**
a) Trustees have reviewed the revised Headteacher's reports. Any further comments about the new reports will be emailed to the CEO.
b) The Community Relations Trustee has started to visit each of the 6 schools.
c) Middle Leaders subject snapshot reports are in the development phase.
d) The MAT Student Council is engaged with the Everyone's Invited agenda and have provided valuable and constructive feedback on the anonymous reporting tool.
28. **Summary points from LGCs**
a) The Trustees acknowledged the summary provided by the Clerk from the LGC minutes.
29. **Headteacher's Reports**
a) Mr Buckley advised that we need to improve the quality of questions from governors but the RAG rating should help with this. Any continued inconsistency with completing the report should be cleared up during the next MSLT meeting. The data is as expected but the narrative can sometimes halt governor questions and trying to get a balance was discussed at length.
b) **A Trustee asked if there was a Trust level RAG rated document.** Mr Buckley advised that SEFs should provide this level of detail. **A Trustee asked about the amber rating of the Looe SEF** and Mr Buckley advised that Looe feel that this is "good". A Trustee suggested that Liskeard's report was in the best format and would be the preferred model.
c) A Trustee noted the forward thinking of the everyone's invited work. Trustees acknowledged the phenomenal work of staff to do this on top of the ongoing Covid challenges and the accompanying staff shortages.
30. **Agreements made by email**
a) None.
31. **Date of next meetings:**
06-06-2022 at 6pm

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.

Action Summary	
<p>M21. Review the effectiveness of information, advice and guidance across the Trust's schools n) In the first stage of revising the five-year plan, we have agreed a set of strategies and Trustees need to consider and feedback their views. The Clerk will circulate.</p>	<p>Action: The Clerk</p>