



TRUST BOARD LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Learning Committee of the Trust Board of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 6 pm.

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 to Trust Board	Yes
Mr R Newton Chance	Yes		

Summary of matters for the Trust Board	
a)	CAGS policy - confirmation that the submitted policy meets the requirements of the Joint Council for Qualifications Guidance.
b)	Work on Behaviour Policies has restarted to ensure a commonality of approach across the Trust. Pupil voice will be added into the process of consultation.
c)	The SLTF are working collectively to agree Trust priorities and suggest strategies. They will be presenting to the Trust Board.
d)	The learning model will be the main focus of discussion at the next Learning Committee meeting.

30. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

None.

32. **Approval of minutes from meeting held on 01-03-2021**

The minutes of the meetings held on 1st March 2021, having been circulated in advance of the meeting, were agreed as an accurate of the meeting and will be signed once social distancing ceases.

33. **Matters Arising**

M17. Strategic Risk

h) Trustees have reviewed the Risk Register and agreed the mitigations in place. The dates of review can be updated.

Update: Complete.

34. **Apologies for Absence**

None.

35. **Centre Assessed Grades – Update**

a) Mr Buckley advised that he has received confirmation that the submitted policy meets the requirements of the Joint Council for Qualifications Guidance.

b) Mr Buckley explained that staff are working incredibly hard and we have removed meetings to give extra time wherever possible. The moderation process is working well and all subjects are

being cross moderated. There are slight variations in school policy but any issues have been made apparent by the cross moderation process.

- c) The GCSE section is coming to the end at most of the schools and the grade boundaries have been sent out. There was not the drop in some subjects as expected and in general children have produced work of a similar standard to normal years. The SLTs (Senior Leadership Teams) now need to make sure the data meets expectations before submission.
- d) **A Trustee noted the policy for each school had been circulated and there were not many differences, if any.** Mr Buckley advised that there should not be much difference between the school as they have all signed up to the Trust CAGs (Centre Assessed Grades) policy. The schools are the centres and so we do not receive a Trust wide confirmation of acceptance of the policy. Mr Buckley explained that within the Ofsted framework, schools are required to take ownership of Trust wide policies and the Headteachers are considered the leaders of policies.
- e) **A Trustee asked if all the schools will be ready for the submission date of 18th June.** Mr Buckley advised that they are.
- f) **A Trustees queried if there were a significant number of appeals last year.** Mr Buckley advised that we did not have appeals as parents were not able to appeal grades under last year's CAGS policy, but we also did not have any parental complaints.
- g) **A Trustee asked if the students work and evidence is being electronically stored as Ofqual will require samples within a short timeframe.** Mr Buckley advised that the schools have not been collecting and storing this information electronically but they are arranging storage and retrieval. The schools have needed systems in place to photocopy and scan work for the cross moderation process.

36. Curriculum for Behaviour

- a) Mr Buckley advised that pre Covid, we decided to go for a taught behaviour policy which was being developed with the deputies. Mr Buckley advised that we have now restarted work on a commonality of approach for behaviour policies. We need to align policies across the Trust and ensure that there is a clear focus that this is a learning piece and behaviour is being included in curriculum discussions.
- b) **A Trustee asked if the Trust is moving towards a relationship policy rather than a behaviour policy.** Mr Buckley advised that relationships had been added into the title of the behaviour policy but this became confusing at primary level. This will need further consideration and discussion.
- c) **A Trustee noted that the policies need to include teaching behaviour as well as how we interact with each other and queried from the children's point of view, if this is a curriculum worth behaving for.** Mr Buckley advised that it is the intention to build pupil voice into the review of this policy and when asking questions of the students, this level of information will become apparent.

37. Use of SLTF this year

- a) Mr Buckley advised that SLTF (Senior Leadership Team Forum) is the SLT from all schools and we have used this model effectively for two years.
- b) The role of the SLTF is now being brought together to set out the possible futures for the five-year plan and the strategies needed. The behaviour programme, pedagogy and leadership are key areas of focus. We will give the SLTF access to CST (Confederation of Schools Trust) recent papers to aid a deeper discussion in these areas. If Trustees have interesting ideas to feed into this group, please let Mr Buckley know.

- c) Mr Buckley added that the group have been tasked to look at the new ECT (Early Career Teachers) framework and how this could be reorganised within the schools.
- d) Mr Buckley advised that the SLTF group will be presented with a range of different options at this early stage of developing the MAT Strategic Plan for the next five years. The outcomes of their discussions will come to the Trust Board which is a different process to previous years. **A Trustee noted the work of the CEO to engage the SLTF to collaboratively form the Trust priorities and asked what other way we could do this that would be better.** Mr Buckley advised that this process of originating ideas with the SLTF is more robust. If we had a Trust Board that routinely challenged the views of the educational group, then it would be a risky process to collect the views of the SLTF first because their views could then be opposed by the Trust Board which would have made the original process worth less. Mr Buckley added that debate with the group will continue for the remainder of the year and we will be bringing the new Trust officers (ICT, Op Managers, COO) into this group. Mr Buckley clarified the current position of the Operations Managers at Liskeard and Saltash.
- e) Mr Buckley advised that the broad strategic framework is being initially drafted by the SLTF. Mr Buckley advised that the amount of professional reading has been incredible this year but he is helping with the scoping and he will share the materials with Trustees and a Trustee advised that the Trust Board just need a broad outline. The last Trust Board meeting will be 21st July.
- f) Mr Buckley advised that he had just finished the last round of TAS (Team Around the School) meetings and it was noted that there is a significant increase in concerns at the schools in the area. **A Trustee asked if this is happening in or outside school.** Mr Buckley advised that it is within school which Trustees thought is concerning.
- g) **A Trustee asked for a Covid update in terms of learning, staffing etc which had not been included on the agenda.** Mr Buckley advised that in terms of curriculum, Looe and Liskeard have returned to using specialist rooms and specialist curriculum although they are using different methods. Saltash has stayed with a bubble model for the time being but this is being reviewed and it was explained that this is more difficult due to the volume of people needing to move through the narrow corridors. Saltash are hoping to reduce measures by 20th June once Y11 and Y13 leave. Looe will fully change when the new timetable comes in.
- h) Mr Buckley advised that it is unlikely that any secondary teacher is currently marking anything outside lessons which is not a TAG or CAG. Mr Buckley advised that within the secondary schools, the students have demonstrated work of a similar quality to previous years and so the impact of Covid has not been as great as expected. Primary schools have completed Pira and Puma assessments and have noted a drop in progress but this has been less than 10% in most cases and so not as great as expected.
- i) Mr Buckley explained that overall there has been an increase in referrals across the schools and anxiety has been the greatest in Year 6. We are trying to put transition processes in place for Year 6 children moving into Year 7 but there are complexities surrounding this.
- j) **A Trustee asked for an update on the position of staffing across the Trust and if there is a high level of absence at the moment.** Mr Buckley advised that there are some problems areas but generally we have good attendance. Mr Buckley advised there are some concerns surrounding Covid and pregnancy and there are a few mental health issues. **A Trustee noted that the current position is not hugely impacting the schools and therefore we are able to ensure the quality of learning for the children.** Mr Buckley advised that we have historically had some issues with long term staff attendance across the Trust which had been higher than national benchmark. We have been working hard to address this, but Covid has impacted the progress of this.
- k) **A Trustee asked if there have been many positive Covid cases.** Mr Buckley advised that there was one issue at Saltash where there was positive LFT (Lateral Flow Test) but resulted in a

negative PCR test. Staff and student testing continues although there has been some lapsing with this but the tests are readily available. Mr Buckley advised that Looe is running a pilot for an enhanced LFT test although the trial has started a little late as the number of Covid cases has reduced in Cornwall. We are the second lowest county for positive cases.

38. **Ofsted: Science and RE**

a) Science

Mr Buckley advised that the Science research summary was written concisely and with clarity and the model was in line with our subject model which is encouraging. However, the Ofsted opinion of Discovery Learning was negative which was disappointing. The central role of concepts was valuable. Ofsted have said that school should be ambitious about the frequency of formative testing of misconceptions. We are currently aiming to assess only annually so may decide to twice yearly testing if concept tracking is working.

b) RE

Mr Buckley advised that from the research review, it is clear that there is national debate happening on this subject. The most common mentioned structure is the conceptual model with the use of schemas which is entirely in line with the model we are introducing across the Trust, which is extremely encouraging. The OFSTED review was negative about the model of locally agreed syllabi which encourages us to move away from this as we have been doing, but it gives a good framework of the required criteria. Mr Buckley advised that the level of training required needs to be stepped up to meet the requirements being asked of RE Teachers.

c) **A Trustee queried the position of RE specialists in the schools.** Mr Buckley advised that we have in RE specialists in secondary schools but not primary.

d) **A Trustee noted how useful it was to have a document which has used paraphrasing and thanked the CEO.** Mr Buckley advised that we have started work on the structure of the RE curriculum and the central concepts are being decided. Mr Buckley advised that there is a good understanding by staff of where the gaps are and what are the core concepts.

e) A Trustee noted that the learning model should be discussed as the main topic in the next Learning Committee meeting. Clerk to add to the agenda.

Action: Clerk

39. **Review of Policies**

a) None.

40. **Guidance/instructions to LGCs**

a) Mr Buckley advised that the Link meetings have been particularly useful this term and have included discussions about the SDPs (School Development Plans) and both the understanding and challenge by governors has been improved. The SDPs need to have clear milestone which can be triangulated. Governors need to maintain engagement with pedagogy. Every single SDP has got a main focus on pedagogical understanding of teachers and they will all have clear milestones and governors should agree them and triangulate during the year.

41. **Agreements made by email – For information**

a) None.

42. **Summary of matters for the Trust Board**

a) CAGS policy - confirmation that the submitted policy meets the requirements of the Joint Council for Qualifications Guidance.

b) Work on Behaviour Policies has restarted to ensure a commonality of approach across the Trust. Pupil voice will be added into the process of consultation.

c) The SLTF are working collectively to agree Trust priorities and suggest strategies. They will be

presenting to the Trust Board.

d) The learning model will be the main focus of discussion at the next Learning Committee meeting.

43. **Date of next meetings:**

TBC

44. **AOB**

Mr Newton Chance explained that the Trust Board is still looking to recruit either a HR or a Community Trustee (with FE or training providers' background). It has been difficult to find someone to take the HR role and so it would be easier to recruit to Community. Mr Buckley advised that as part of the role of the Community Trustee, we need to look at integrating students into the community and this is also a learning need as well as Health and Wellbeing.

The meeting closed at 18.58.

Action Summary	
M38. Ofsted: Science and RE e) A Trustee noted that the learning model should be discussed as the main topic in the next Learning Committee meeting. Clerk to add to the agenda.	Action: Clerk