

**Uttoxeter Learning Trust
Education Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Education Committee held remotely (via Office 365 Teams) on Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 5.30pm.

Present:

Mr T Sutcliffe (in the chair), Mr S Slater.

Dr S Clark – Chief Executive Officer

Mr R Sheldon – Clerk to the ULT

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Rev M Sherwin (chair) and Mrs P Livesey.

250. The Teaching School and the Golden Thread / Teacher Assessed Grades:

Mrs Rudge, headteacher at Thomas Alleyne's High School, was present for this item to update trustees regarding the role of the Teaching School which was ceasing at the end of the school year. Trustees were reminded that they were to be replaced by Teaching School hubs which would be responsible for delivering the 'golden thread' of high-quality teacher development. Mrs Rudge reported that three Teaching School hubs had been set up across Staffordshire and that she had been working with the John Taylor Teaching School hub and outlined the benefits of this for Thomas Alleyne's High School and other schools in the ULT. Mrs Rudge was also pleased to report that she had been appointed to the hub's strategic board. An explanation was also given of the 'golden thread' to support teacher career progression.

Discussion followed and the chair of the Trust Board welcomed the partnership with John Taylor Teaching School hub but also recognised the importance of schools exploring alternative training opportunities available through other providers. The CEO confirmed that expertise within the Trust would continue to be identified to offer a wide variety of statutory training courses to compliment the support and training offered through the John Taylor Teaching School hub.

Mrs Rudge then updated trustees on the work undertaken by staff in her school to award the teacher assessed grades for both GCSE and A level. All of the work had been completed and data was being entered in readiness for the June 18th deadline. Trustees were informed that staff had put in a lot of time to complete the required work in awarding the grades and that national guidance had been followed to ensure comparability with the previous years' outcomes. Every effort had been made to ensure that grades awarded were fair and not over-inflated but trustees were advised that there could be a number of parental appeals against some of the grades awarded.

It was resolved –

- i) That Mrs Rudge be thanked for attending the meeting and informing trustees of the role of Teaching School hubs and the partnership entered into with the John Taylor Teaching School hub to ensure that staff continued to access appropriate training and developmental opportunities.
- ii) That trustees thank Mrs Rudge and her staff for all of the work undertaken around the teacher assessed grades.

251. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest relevant to the agenda items.

252. Minutes:

Minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 27 April 2021 had been previously circulated.

It was resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting be received and approved.

253. Matters Arising:

a) Bramshall Meadows (Minute 242(a) refers)

The CEO was pleased to report that construction of the school would commence in August of this year with completion scheduled for June 2022. The S10 consultation process was to end very shortly and trustees noted that 108 responses had been received to-date, which was a positive number. The CEO reported that the appointment of the school's headteacher would hopefully commence before the end of term and, as previously agreed by the Trust Board, an executive headteacher would be appointed. All headteachers in the ULT would be invited to apply. The process would be considered further at the next meeting of the Finance and Audit committee.

b) Richard Clarke First School (Minute 242(c) refers)

The CEO reported that the land ownership issues continued to be pursued but it remained hopeful for these matters to be resolved to enable the school to join the ULT on 1 September 2021.

c) Ryecroft Middle School (Minute 245 refers)

The CEO reported that following the appointment of Mrs Rudge as interim executive headteacher, changes had been made to the leadership teams at Thomas Alleyne's High and Ryecroft Middle Schools, including the appointment of heads of school.

d) Windsor Park (Minute 246(b) refers)

The CEO reported that a safeguarding review of the school had been undertaken in response to the parental complaint and that it had been very positive.

254. Covid-19 and School Responses to the Government's Road Map:

The CEO reported that schools continued to follow both local and national guidance and that the implications of the recent decision to extend the timeline for removing further lockdown measures was to be considered at the next HPB meeting. This would include in particular school transition arrangements and summer school plans. All headteachers remained keen to offer support to all pupils but most transition arrangements would be held remotely. Government funding was available to schools to help with transition arrangements and consideration was being given to the use of an external agency to support this. Consideration was also to be given at the HPB meeting regarding the possible need to go out to tender for external transition support.

The CEO further reported that headteachers had also been asked to update their school risk assessments by 25 June so that they could be received and approved by the Trust Board at its next meeting.

It was resolved –

That the update on the implications of Covid-19 be noted and that the CEO be requested to arrange for external transition support to go out to tender if it was considered appropriate.

255. Safeguarding:

The CEO reported that, in addition to the safeguarding review at Windsor Park Middle School, arrangements had been made with the local authority for a further safeguarding review at all other ULT schools and that these would be undertaken early in the new school year.

The chair of the Trust Board further reported that he had received a letter from Ofsted regarding the parental complaint at Windsor Park and this had prompted the request for the safeguarding review at the school. The chair also reported that he had been informed of a recent incident at Oldfields Hall Middle School but that the matter had been resolved with all appropriate procedures having been followed.

It was resolved –

That the safeguarding updates be noted.

256. Policy Review:

The following new policies had been previously circulated:

a) ULT Early Career Framework Policy

The CEO reported that this policy was new and replaced the NQT policy, taking account of new guidance.

It was resolved –

That the Early Career Framework policy be recommended for approval at the next meeting of the Trust Board.

b) ULT Appraisal and Capability Policies

The CEO reported that the Trust did not currently have central policies for appraisal or capability matters and that both policies were therefore new. Policies were currently in draft format only and had been submitted to headteachers and the professional associations to get their views. They would be revised as necessary to take account of any views received. The CEO further reported that both policies had also been matched with the Scheme of Delegation to ensure consistency.

It was resolved –

- i) That the draft ULT Appraisal and Capability policies be received and that the CEO also be requested to seek the views of chairs of governors regarding their content.

- ii) That both policies be submitted to a future meeting of the Finance and Audit committee, once revised, for further consideration and approval.

257. Risk Register:

A copy of the updated risk register had been previously circulated and the CEO reported that it had been updated to take account of discussions at previous meetings of trustees.

It was resolved –

That the updated risk register be received and noted.

258. Curriculum Development:

Trustees considered school arrangements for curriculum benefit and suggested that a presentation be given at a future meeting of the Education committee to outline plans for this, also highlighting the benefits for pupils through attending a ULT school. The CEO agreed to discuss this with headteachers and to also update the Trust Development Plan as appropriate.

259. Date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Education Committee would be held on Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 5.30pm. The venue for the meeting to be agreed nearer the date.

Signed:
Rev. M Sherwin

Date:
21 September 2021