

**Uttoxeter Learning Trust
Education Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Education Committee held remotely (via Office 365 Teams) on Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 5.30pm.

Present:

Rev M Sherwin (chair), Mrs P Livesey, Mr R Oldham, Mr S Slater, Mr T Sutcliffe.

Dr S Clark – Chief Executive Officer

Mr R Sheldon – Clerk to the ULT

239. Windsor Park Middle School – Recovery Strategy:

Mrs Wilbraham-Jones, headteacher, was present for this item to outline to trustees her school's recovery plan in preparation for an impending Ofsted inspection. Details of the plan were made available and Mrs Wilbraham-Jones outlined the key strategies in the plan with particular focus on closing curriculum gaps, literacy, attendance and the mental health and well-being of pupils. An outline was given of the rationale for the various curriculum decisions including the retention of a broad curriculum covering a wide range of subjects for all pupils. The plan had already been presented to the school's governing body and a number of strategies had already been put in place to bring about necessary improvement. Details of funding available to the school to support the recovery plan were also outlined. Trustees noted that the recovery plan was RAG rated to ensure that it could be effectively monitored and revised as appropriate.

Mrs Wilbraham-Jones also outlined the various strategies to close the curriculum gaps, which included working with the National Tutoring Programme (NTP). Trustees were informed of the support to be given through this programme and they noted that 54 pupils had been identified to receive support. The cost of this was being met by both the NTP (75%) and the school (25%). Reference was also made to the summer school programme currently being put together to help re-engage pupils. Funding was to be made available through the DfE to support any summer school programme and details of this would be shared with the CEO as further guidance became available.

Finally, Mrs Wilbraham-Jones also referred to the school's current data and was pleased to advise trustees that pupil progress was on an upward trajectory. An assurance was given, however, that the data would continue to be monitored and further intervention strategies put in place as necessary to ensure that pupils received the necessary support.

Discussion followed and trustees thanked Mrs Wilbraham-Jones for her presentation and a number of questions were asked in particular regarding the national tutoring programme. Trustees asked how the quality of support would be monitored to ensure that it met the specific school needs. Mrs Wilbraham-Jones assured trustees that the programme would be closely monitored and that there was a large pool of experienced tutors available, with flexibility in the scheme to enable a change of tutors, if considered necessary.

It was resolved –

That Mrs Wilbraham-Jones be thanked for attending the meeting and outlining her school's recovery plan and the strategies in place to support this.

240. Declarations of Interest:

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

241. Minutes:

Minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 16 March 2021 had been previously circulated.

It was resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting be received and approved.

242. Matters Arising:

a) New School (Minute 228(a) refers)

The CEO was pleased to report that the required S10 consultation would shortly commence and would include an on-line event to be held on 26 May.

b) IT Review (Minute 228(b) refers)

The CEO reported that, as agreed at the recent Trust Board meeting, further consideration to the IT review was to be given by the Finance and Audit committee.

c) Richard Clarke First School (Minute 228(c) refers)

The CEO reported that the issues around ownership of the land were still to be resolved and that appropriate legal advice continued to be given to help resolve the issues as quickly as possible. As a result, a decision had been taken to defer Richard Clarke First School joining the ULT to 1 September 2021.

d) Pupil Well-being (Minute 231 refers)

The CEO reported that consideration continued to be given as to how best pupil well-being could be better supported and was to be discussed at the next meeting of the headteacher professional board (HPB). The CEO also informed trustees that individual discussions would also be held with headteachers. Trustees would be kept updated as appropriate.

243. Covid-19 and School Recovery Plans:

Copies of school performance data and updated recovery plans had been previously circulated. The CEO reported that discussions continued with headteachers of the first and middle schools to align assessment processes and it had been agreed that pupils would sit appropriate assessment papers before the end of the school year.

The CEO further reported that guidance had been received from the DfE, including funding arrangements, regarding summer schools. Priorities for summer school activities were to be determined at the next meeting of the headteacher professional board.

Discussion followed and trustees questioned the levels of support to be given to pupils of all abilities. They recognised the importance of targeting all specific groups of pupils, including pushing the more able pupils, alongside work to reduce the learning gaps. The CEO gave an assurance that support funding would be deployed wherever it was most needed. Trustees also discussed the detail of school recovery plans but, whilst acknowledging the

support programmes being developed, recognised the need for greater consistency across schools.

It was resolved –

- i) That the school performance data and school recovery plans be received and noted.
- ii) That, at the next meeting of the headteacher professional board, the chair of the Trust Board would discuss with headteachers the benefits of schools working in collaboration with recovery plans and arrangements for the summer schools.

244. Trust Capacity Framework:

The CEO again thanked those trustees who had helped with completion of the Trust framework document. This had helped to highlight a number of issues to be addressed and which would help shape the Trust's development programme. Discussions continued with The Ark Academy, acting as the mentor, to help identify specific developmental areas to support school improvement. The committee chair reported that she had found the framework helpful in identifying where to prioritise future development.

It was resolved –

That the update on the Trust Capacity Framework be noted.

245. Ryecroft CE Middle School – Appointment of Interim Executive Headteacher:

The CEO confirmed that, as reported at the recent meeting of the Trust Board, Mrs Rudge had been appointed as interim executive headteacher, with effect from September 2021. Working arrangements were being finalised but it had been agreed that Mrs Rudge would work with Ryecroft Middle School for 10 days during the summer term to help plan for the new school year. The CEO further reported that she was meeting regularly with Mrs Rudge to identify priorities for school improvement strategies.

It was resolved –

- i) That the appointment of Mrs Rudge as interim executive headteacher at Ryecroft Middle School be noted.
- ii) That the CEO be requested to inform trustees, at their next meeting, of agreed management plans for both Ryecroft and Thomas Alleyne's from September.

246. Safeguarding:

a) Covid-19

The CEO reported that guidance was awaited from the Government regarding end of school year activities, following the planned lifting of various Covid-19 restrictions. Schools would continue to follow all guidance in place and trustees would be kept informed of developments.

b) Windsor Park

The CEO reported that there had been a recent complaint made against Windsor Park Middle School regarding alleged bullying. The parent had also raised concerns with Ofsted. The CEO was pleased to report that, having investigated the complaint, Ofsted

had not upheld the complaint and had also acknowledged that school procedures for tackling any bullying issues were robust. No further action was to be taken.

It was resolved –

That the safeguarding updates be noted.

247. Policy Review:

The following policies had been previously circulated and the CEO reported that both were due to be reviewed:

a) ULT Bereavement Policy

The Bereavement policy was to be reviewed and the CEO reported that no amendments were necessary. Mrs Livesey reported that St Gile's Hospice was looking to work with schools in and around Uttoxeter to support them in dealing with bereavement and that it would be useful to note this in the policy. It was also suggested that reference also be made to the use of social media as appropriate.

It was resolved –

That the Bereavement policy be approved, subject to changes made as identified.

b) ULT Home/School Communication Policy

The CEO reported that the policy had been amended to better reflect the role of the ULT.

It was resolved –

That the ULT Home/School Communication policy be approved as presented.

248. Risk Register:

A copy of the updated risk register had been previously circulated and the CEO reported that it had been updated to include risks associated with the loss of funding for the Teaching School. The CEO reported that the headteacher was discussing possible future arrangements through working with a local teaching school hub.

Discussion followed and trustees recognised the need to determine a ULT model to cover work that was currently being offered through the Teaching School, particularly school improvement support. Consideration should be given by the Trust Board regarding the future need for a teaching school within the ULT and continued to be led by Thomas Alleyne's High School.

Trustees also agreed that the register should include possible risks through schools failing to work collaboratively with their planned recovery strategies.

It was resolved –

i) That the updated risk register be received and noted.

ii) That the CEO be requested to further update the risk register to reflect discussions.

- iii) That the continuing need for a teaching school within the ULT be further explored through work to develop the Trust capacity framework.

249. Date of Next Meeting:

As previously agreed, the next meeting of the Education Committee was to be held on Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 5.30pm. The meeting would again be held through Microsoft Teams.

Signed: T. Sutcliffe
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15 June 2021
Date: