

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on 13.9.22
at 10:00 at Hope School, 251 Hartsbourne Ave, Liverpool L25 2RY

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: David Blythe, Richard Lovegrove, Dave Cadwallader, Maureen McDaid, Michael Morris, Dave Owen, Cliff Barton, Marlene Taylor

Visitors: Katie Atkinson, Hope School Parent Governor, Sarah Goldman, Hope School Governor

Apologies: Danielle Azanuwha, Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien, Mary Donohue,

Guest speaker: Rohit Naik, Headteacher Hope School

The meeting observed a minute's silence to recognise the contribution of our late Queen and to welcome King Charles III to the throne.
Thanks were extended to the guest speaker, Rohit Naik, Headteacher of Hope School for hosting today's meeting.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

As this was the first meeting of the academic year members completed new Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms. No interests were declared. PA is to forward copies of the form to members absent from today's meeting.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

An email has been received from Kathleen Desmond, thanking members for the card and book token that was sent, marking her resignation from Liverpool Governance

Forum and wishing members well for the future.

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB reported that the current LGF bank balance stands at £4525.02. It was noted that there are £637.80 expenditure yet to be processed, therefore the effective balance is £3887.22.

Concern was expressed that HSBC are charging a standard £5.00 per month with an additional charge per transaction. A bank that provides free banking is to be investigated by DO (Nationwide) and MMc (Halifax).

2.2 Feedback from Events

Academisation Presentation - DB reported that he had attended Jonathan Jones' presentation on Academisation held on 12.7.22

The governments aim is that all schools should be part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030. Also, MATs should run a minimum of 10 schools or have a total of 7,5000 within the MAT

DB is to share the slides presented at the meeting and a report of the meeting originally shared with the governors of Hope School, which provided more information.

LGF Annual Review - DB had previously circulated a draft LGF Annual Review 2021/22. The meeting was happy for the report to be uploaded to the LGF website and circulated to the Headteacher's Associations, Jonathan Jones etc.

DB had also circulated a schedule of forthcoming meetings which will be updated as necessary.

2.3 Future Events

The next LGF meeting, which will include the AGM is to be held at 8.11.22. The venue is to be confirmed but is expected to be St Margaret's, C of E Academy, Aigburth Rd, L17 6AB

A discussion took place regarding the best time and venue for future AGM's to ensure the best attendance. It was agreed to investigate a more central location and the possibility of an evening meeting for next year's meeting. It was noted that cost and parking may be a limiting factor.

The Chair of Governors meeting is to be held on 17.10.22, venue to be confirmed

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date.

2.5 Twitter Account

AO'B to be contacted by DB. It was noted that her contribution to LGF meeting is missed.

2.6 Others

Not applicable

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

A sub-committee meeting is to be held this afternoon.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

Not applicable

3.3 LLP All Learners

Not applicable

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

Not applicable

3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

Not applicable

3.6 Other

DB had circulated a list of current committee representatives and vacancies prior to the meeting. Vacancies and new representatives for 2022/23 were discussed. DB is to circulate the updated list for 2022/23.

DB is to contact Andy Chadwick regarding his ability to attend meetings.

4.0 Other Items

4.1 Other

Energy Crisis – Governors were canvassed to see where most school were

sourcing their future energy from. It was found that most school had remained with the Local Authority although some schools still had a period remaining on their existing fixed term arrangements.

MM reported that he had received a request from an out of area school for a LGF governor to sit on a parental appeal panel. It was noted that traveling expenses would be met. No one was available however Jane Owens of Purple Governance was suggested as a possible volunteer.

The meeting concluded at 11:51

Next meeting:

10:00 on Tuesday 8 November 2022 venue to be confirmed as St Margaret's, C of E Academy, Aigburth Rd, L17 6AB

Actions	
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests forms to be forwarded to non-attendees	PA
Free banking to be investigated	DO/MMc
Slides and report from J Jones' presentation on Academisation	DB
AO'B to be contacted	DB
List of committee representatives 2022/23 to be circulated	DB
AC to be contacted re ability to act as a representative on sub-committees	DB

Annex A

Mr Rohit Naik, Hope School Headteacher was welcomed. Hope School is a strategic partner with Chester University and ARC (Attachment Research Community) in developing a framework for schools to become attachment and trauma-responsive school. Currently, 10 Liverpool Schools are engaged in the project and a further 10 are signed up to start soon, although the project is open to all school. The aim of the project is to make schools more inclusive and consequentially reduce the demand for special school places as pupil's needs could be met in a mainstream setting. Currently a place in a mainstream school cost approximately £4000 whereas a place in a special school costs approximately £24,000. A place in an independent/out of area school can run to £50,000 to £90,000 which does not include transport costs.

Rohit Naik provided an overview of this project as detailed below.

RN explained that based on academic research Hope School developed an approach that is sensitive to supporting pupils with attachment and complex trauma histories. This new approach removed reliance on external sanctions and rewards to control behaviour. The emphasis changed to understanding the internal reasons for behaviour. This approach empowers pupils to control their own behaviour without external controls. He explained that all behaviour is communication.

RN explained that Trauma is an event that happens to a person such as the death of a relative or a car accident and can affect a person to a lesser or greater degree depending on their own resilience, whereas Attachment Trauma is something that can happen to everyone with the early years of their existence. This is very important as this is when the brain is developing. The impact of the behaviour of our care givers during this developmental stage can have a huge impact on the mental health of children even if the events are not remembered. RN quoted children who are brought up in war zones with understandably stressed parents and the practice of leaving a baby to cry as examples of Attachment Trauma. Attachment Trauma can also be caused by physical or sexual abuse and neglect.

RN shared details of his own trauma from his childhood and this encouraged LGF members to do likewise. He highlighted that often when a person completes a 'timeline' of their own trauma it is often linked to events in their parent's lives. RN emphasized that it is nobody's fault and blame should not be attributed e.g. children can be affected by the mother drinking or taking drugs during pregnancy, but this does not mean they are not a loving mother. She may be abusing substances because she is stressed because of something that has happened in her own life.

RN stated that the opinions he had expressed were his own based on his extensive research and he was lucky to have the support of the governing board of Hope School

although initially he had met some opposition as the school was already considered to be outstanding in its previous Ofsted inspection.

RN invited questions from the members. MMc asked if expected there would be significant issues for pupils because of being kept at home during the Covid pandemic. RN replied that he believed that pupils can be re-traumatised if they have experienced previous trauma.

RN highlighted that along with pupils, staff are only human. And sometimes 'the past'/'inner child' will hijack a situation and they react. This can make the circumstances worse. When this happens and they react unhelpfully to a situation, they must accept this and be compassionate to themselves and other team members.

RN explained that he did not believe the existing framework met the real needs of Hope pupils and the school was failing many children who had attachment and trauma histories - this was highlighted when they tracked children who had left the school and found many were still excluded from their next schools and/or had become known to the criminal justice services as they were not able to self-regulate and manage their behaviour on leaving our school.

RN said, when Hope School opened it had a behaviour-based approach, pupils were told 'if you do this, this will happen'. Now it has a restorative approach. He realised that the school's biggest resource was the staff and if he could effect a change in the staff's approach and understanding then the children will benefit. RN said it is difficult to measure the impact of his approach now, but he is certain that if the school is not doing pupils good it is certainly not doing them harm as he believes children only learn when they feel safe, and Hope School provides a safe environment.

S Goldman highlighted the family programme that the school runs to support parents and help them understand their child and how they can help support their learning and development and help them get rid of any guilt.

RN urged governors to be aware of their own inner child and not to worry about their own ego, noting mental health issues come from early experiences but can be healed. Members felt that this topic should be shared with a wider audience and suggested RN could be invited to address a future LGF conference. RN said he hoped the members would feedback to their individual schools, highlighting that prisons are full of traumatised people who could have been helped at an earlier stage. He stated that is far cheaper to direct resources towards rehabilitation than to keep them incarcerated.

RN was thanked for his interesting presentation.