



Bristol Metropolitan Academy Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 15th December 2020, 5.00pm
Virtual meeting via TEAMS due to Covid-19 restrictions

Academy Council:

Clare Ryder (CR) CHAIR	Sponsor 1	Sally Apps (SA)	Executive Principal
Marie Mooney (MM) V. CHAIR	Sponsor 2	Cameron Shaw (CS)	Principal
Martin Neary (MN)	Sponsor 3	Kane Davis (KD)	LA Rep
Charlotte Muzabazzi (CM) *	Sponsor 4	Nigel Cooley (NC) *	Student Advocate
Herdeep Wynter (HW) *	Sponsor 5	Mark Swallow (MS) *	Teacher
Aliya Douglas (AD)	Sponsor 6	In Attendance	
Helen Harman (HH) *	Support Staff		
<i>Vacancy</i>	Parent		
Helen Bruton (HB) *	Parent	Sue Burns	Clerk
* <- Indicates absent.		Yellow box	<- Indicates question asked

1, Welcome and Apologies:

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm.

Apologies were received and accepted for: CM, HB and HW

The meeting was deemed to be quorate.

The Academy Council advised that in the interests of staff wellbeing this meeting will focus on key criteria only, and that all the staff have been given permission to not attend this meeting.

2, Declaration of Interests

The Councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary interest pertinent to this meeting.

3, Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (9th June 2020) were agreed to be a true and accurate record and were signed electronically by the Chair.

4, Actions and Matters Arising

7, NC to arrange for a member of the CLF Safeguarding team to be present at the SENCo and Admin Assistant transition file review – **Carried forward.**

7, CR to arrange for the Safeguarding Lead to provide a deep dive into the concerns around Gang related issues – **Completed.**

8, CR to review the contextual updates to the Safeguarding Policy – **Completed.**

11, CM to liaise with MM re identifying professional institutions for equality – **Carried forward.**

5, Academy Council Report

Paper circulated in advance.

Was the issue of the number of devices supplied by the DfE rectified?

The DfE advised last Thursday that the allocation will be restored to the original allocation which will be accessible from January 2021.

What will the financial impact be on the delivery of core education?

The Covid costs are estimated to be approximately £12k to date which has been offset by some other cost savings e.g. trips and transport costs. £65k of Covid costs has been budgeted for the year which we are on track to meet this.

Are you aware of an increase in challenges for vulnerable students with some bubble closures?

We have had significantly fewer cases than many other schools, therefore our bubbles have been less affected, therefore we have not been inundated with the number of vulnerable children affected. There is more work for the Safeguarding team as they need to check all reasons for absence very carefully and provide additional support to get pupils back into school as quickly as possible. One or two pupils have had their isolation extended by two days, but we have no pupils who have had more than one self-isolation period. The students all appear to be very resilient and on the whole there does not appear to be any significant post-lockdown effects.

How are you monitoring that students are completing work when they are in isolation?

We have a member of staff in their third trimester of pregnancy who is therefore been working from home and has designed a tracking system. She runs a daily report for X coded children (i.e. in isolation) and checks that they have accessed remote learning. If they have not then there is a cascade tree that is utilised to support students to access remote learning, including the delivery of laptops if required.

As of January 2021, all Secondary School staff will be initially tested weekly and then eventually twice a week. Daily lateral flow testing will be available for staff who have had close contact with a confirmed case, and it will be offered to close contact children, so that they can return to school during the isolation period. If this process is successful in Secondary Schools, it will be rolled out to Primary Schools.

How is staff morale?

We have only had one positive student case in the last two-weeks which is considerably less than many Secondary Schools. All the staff are very tired and will need the Christmas break to relax and refresh. The trust has been very supportive throughout and have undertaken the public health liaison work which has been very impactful in sharing the workload. Tracking whether a positive student may have come into close contact with other students is very labour intensive and has been undertaken by myself and the Ops Manager. The track and trace app has produced additional challenges.

The Academy Council thanked CS for the detailed Academy Council report.

6, Finance, H&S and Estates

No questions.

7, Policies

- Admissions
- Health & Safety
- RHSE
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Children with Health Needs

The Academy Councillors noted the above policies.

As students transfer from primary to secondary school, how do you determine that they have completed the primary RHSE curriculum?

We assume a baseline level of age-related expectations and then determine if any additional support is required.

8, Governance

None.

9, Academy Council Training/Feedback

CR reminded everyone to complete their Nimble training.

10, Matters for the attention of the Board/COAC

None.

11, AOB

Safeguarding and Pupil Premium deep dives had been planned but were suspended due to Covid-19. Therefore, CR and CS will schedule separate sessions during 2021, pending the progression of the pandemic.


The Academy Council thanked CS and the BMA team for their ongoing resilience and dedicated support of the pupils and families of the school.

12, Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2021, 5.00pm

Meeting ended at: 5.45pm

Item	Action	Initials
C/F T1	NC to arrange for a member of the CLF Safeguarding team to be present at the SENCo and Admin Assistant transition file review.	NC
C/F T1	CM to liaise with MM re identifying professional institutions for equality.	CM

Approved:



Date: 23rd February 2021