

The Charter School North Dulwich

Minutes of Local Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 6.00 pm via Zoom

Governors	Role	Present/apologies
Amanda King (AKG)	Chair of Governors	Present
Catherine Barrows (CBS)	Governor	Present
Lucy Hamer (LHR)	Governor	Present
Christian Hicks (CNH)	Headteacher	Present
Alex Kemp (AKP)	Governor	Present
David Malone (DME)	Governor	Present
Laura McBean (LMN)	Governor	Present
Alton McDonald (AMD)	Governor	absent
Jennifer Parker	Governor	Present
Thecla Schreuders (TSS)	Governor	Present
Celeste Shirvani (CSI)	Governor	Present
In attendance		
Carrie Fentum	Clerk	

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION NO. AND OWNER
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Thecla Schreuders (TSS) took the chair for the beginning of the meeting</p> <p>There were no apologies</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest for the meeting</p>	
2	<p>Operational Risk assessment</p> <p>The Operational Risk assessment for schools reopening 8th March 2021 had been shared with governors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The clerk advised that the purpose of the meeting was for governors to consider whether the risk assessment is adequate.</p> <p>The Headteacher drew the attention of governors to a number of issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will be tested before the school reopens and there will be further tests over the following weeks. There are a number of issues with the testing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On the first day of the testing Head of School Interviews are taking place. ○ Consent must be sought and parents don't have to give it. Currently 50% of parents have given consent. This number is higher in 6th form ○ There will be 3 tests per pupil. The first test must take place before the students start back at school and that is more likely to pick up the asymptomatic cases. It is assumed that the 2nd and 3rd tests would identify fewer case. If some cases are identified at this stage there will be a need to carry out contact tracing and it could potentially be very disruptive. ○ In total the school will have to carry out up to 3,500 tests over 3 weeks. ○ After 2 weeks will testing site will be stood down ○ The advice is that the school maintains a skeleton site. ○ The reason for having testing in schools is that the school is supposed to be teaching the students how to test themselves but this is not really feasible. There will not be time to teach them properly how to do this. 	

- The school will open for all students on Wednesday 10th March. It had been felt that it was better for the students to bring them all back at the same time. There are also practical issues with a staggered return as the remote learning timetable does not align with the timetable that is run in school.
- There will be a staff reorientation day. It will be difficult for teachers returning after such a long time away. There is a concern for staff wellbeing and workload and added issue of exam assessment.
- Masks are a controversial issue. The school has already received two emails from parents objecting to their children having to wear masks all day.
- The vaccinations that the staff have had make no difference to the guidance. It will be important to guard against any complacency.

Amanda King joined the meeting, apologised for being late and thanked Tecla for taking the lead.

Amanda King took the chair.

Governors were invited to ask questions

Q. A governor asked whether it would be possible to view the separate Risk assessments for the practical subjects.

The Headteacher said that subject based risk assessments are in the process of being finalised and will be shared with governors when they are ready.

Q. A governor asked whether the logistics of the testing was manageable and if there would be additional staff to manage the tests.

The Headteacher said that the testing site had been planned for January and has been being used since then on a smaller scale. It will need to be scaled up. Teachers will not be carrying out the tests. They will be done by some support staff and some temporary staff. The first round of testing will be easier as the students will have their test and then leave. The subsequent tests will be more complicated.

Q. A governor said that this will be a disruptive time with testing taking place and the holidays so soon after the students return and asked what was the main area of focus for the return to school.

The Headteacher said that there will be a focus on re-establishing the culture and ethos of the school and ensuring that systems of control are maintained; warmth and care with strict structures in place. Much of what was in place before, in terms of systems of controls will be re-implemented. There is no social distancing within bubbles. There will be distance between staff and pupils and between bubbles

Q. A governor asked why it is anticipated that there will be fewer fixed term exclusions.

The Headteacher said that there were more fixed term exclusions in September as the exclusion room could not be used. Once measures were put in place to use the exclusion room the number of fixed term exclusions was lower than in previous autumn terms. It is not yet known how the students will react to the return to school this time.

Q. A governor asked how the school will be able to monitor pupils' compliance with home testing once the in-school testing phase is over.

The Headteacher said that it will not be possible to monitor this. It is reliant on trust.

Q. A governor asked about the activity to support catch up what is being done to support students with low levels of engagement this half term?

The Headteacher said that it had been hoped to begin the catch-up programme in January

but that this had not been possible as the students who needed the most support were the ones accessing the least online learning. The focus has therefore been on ensuring that they access the core provision and to introduce the additional support in summer term. During the first few weeks the focus will be to get these students back to school and to support recovery and reintegration into the classroom.

Q. A governor asked what provision there will be for those who won't be in school, for example if they are required to self-isolate.

The Head teacher said that the remote education provision policy is being updated. Years 10 to 13 will have access to live streamed lessons. There is a concern that the younger years do not have the level of maturity and ability to benefit from that. Also, that teachers are more comfortable with online teaching rather than providing blended teaching with a live stream to those at home. There are some concerns with attendance. There may be some students who have preferred working at home. The Guidance states that attendance will be compulsorily.

Q. A governor asked if there any particular issues around staff wellbeing or areas of stress. The Headteacher said that generally the feeling from staff is excitement. They are pleased to be going back and don't appear to be worried. The SLT have taken account of staff wellbeing. A positive aspect of the crisis has been that lots of departments have developed higher levels of cooperation. No wellbeing issues are currently foreseen. A staff governor added that that the reorientation day has been felt to be useful.

Q. A governor asked when extra-curricular and wrap around activities would return. The Headteacher said that wrap around care refers to the primary phase. It is intended to reintroduce extra-curricular activities but it is planned to introduce these in the summer term when extra lessons will also be re-introduced.

Q. A governor asked when the astro-turf will be finished as this is a key outdoor space for some bubbles and a fire point.

The Headteacher said that it should be finished at Easter. The current situation is a constraint but that there are new procedures in place to manage this.

Q. A governor asked if there is still a waiting list for counselling for students and how students' mental health needs will be assessed during the first weeks.

The Headteacher said that counselling has been operating during lockdown and there is no waiting list. Work has been done to identify those who are struggling and those who need extra mental health support. The Inclusion team are now trained as mental health first aiders and have done a whole cohorts survey of mental health needs.

Q. A governor asked the headteacher what were his main concerns around the reopening. The Headteacher said that the key issues at the moment are

- Compliance and support with parent body
- The disadvantaged students in Year 10 will have suffered.
- Ofqual and the assessment process. There will be pressure and stress on the system

It was noted that during the next few weeks these may change and there were likely to be more. The Chair said that she would report to governors on her meetings with the Headteacher to ensure that they are fully informed of the main issues in the school.

Governors asked for their thanks to Wendy Andrews to be recorded noting that she has done an enormous amount to support the school including setting up the testing site. Her open-door policy has been greatly appreciated. The Chair undertook to send an email to Wendy to say thank you.

	<p>It was noted that Wendy now has an extremely wide remit and that this was a risk if she were to be incapacitated for any reason.</p> <p>Governors recorded their thanks to all staff involved in producing the risk assessment a so quickly.</p>	
8	<p>AOB:</p> <p>It was noted that the date of the next meeting has changed to 24th March 2021.</p>	

Minutes approved by: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

