

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 in the Conference Room.

PRESENT

Mr Ken Alexander
Mrs Anne Fraser
Ms Janice Oliver
Mr Kenny MacRae
Miss Marian Quinn
Mrs Joan McFadden
Ms Fiona Wishlade

APOLOGIES

Mrs Morag Munro
Professor Naveed Sattar

VISITING

Mr Martin Pitt
(PricewaterhouseCoopers)

ATTENDING

Mr Richard Buchan
Miss Wendy Grant
Mrs Christine Robertson
Dr Paul Thomson
Mr Graham Short

69/15/2016 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Professor Sattar and Mrs Munro.

70/15/2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015-16

Mr Martin Pitt, Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), was welcomed and he delivered his Report to the Managers. He confirmed his attendance at the meeting was to verify that the financial information and disclosures made throughout the financial statements, required by law, had been properly made by the Bursar on behalf of Jordanhill School. He confirmed that he was issuing an unqualified audit opinion and that all numbers and disclosures presented were correct and the accounts prepared to a high standard.

Mr Pitt drew the attention of the Board to the audit approach and findings and the 3 areas of focus: Revenue Recognition, Fraud and Management Control and Transition of Financial Statements to FRS 102. In all cases of focus no exceptions, errors or issues were noted. There were no risks to bring to the attention of the Board. There were no material uncertainties and everything delivered followed correct procedure.

Mr Pitt touched on other areas of importance and interest to the Board. He discussed the impact of Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) as applied from 1 January 2015 on disclosures in the financial statement. Charities are now required to report more fully under a set of standard headings to ensure greater consistency and comparability. There has also been some changes to the presentation of financial information regarding fully funded pension schemes.

There are 3 areas of impact on the financial statements as a result of FRS 102

- A permanent endowment by way of the School's property
- Holiday pay accrual, in that a liability is now recognised in the financial statements
- The School now reports its share of the liability for the defined benefit pension scheme to which it subscribes. While this is a genuine liability, it has no immediate effect.

The accounts for 2014-15 have also been restated as a one off change to facilitate like for like comparison with 2015-16.

A financial viability statement forms part of the trustees' report. This requirement is being applied to all companies and for Jordanhill School it is being brought in through the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). PwC are satisfied that Jordanhill School is a going concern based on the information on budgets that has been provided and acknowledge that the Scottish Government has given an indication of funding, albeit the final settlement for 2016-17 still in negotiation.

The Board confirmed their approval of the financial statements and accounts, Mrs Anne Fraser proposed and Ms Janice Oliver seconded.

The Convenor thanked the Bursar and school finance team for their work in relation to the audit. She also thanked Mr Pitt for his attendance at the meeting and the work of his team. Mr Pitt then left the meeting.

71/15/2016 PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes and confidential minutes of 10 May were approved. The action grid and work plans were reviewed and future actions agreed and noted. The School centenary plans will be discussed further in the coming session.

72/15/2016 MATTERS ARISING

A letter to parents on budget 2016-17 from the Rector was tabled. This outlined the increasing squeeze on public funding and challenging financial outlook and describes decisions and actions taken to offer some savings. Funding from Jordanhill School Educational Amenities Trust in support of the extra-curricular activities will increase by £25k, taking this to £55k in 2016-17. Support on this level from the Trust is not sustainable in the medium to longer term and a further strategy must be developed in the next 2 years.

The Board approved the letter.

73/15/2016 ORAL UPDATE

Staffing Update

Staff starting on 11 August - PT Mandarin Yuwen Fortune, PT Home Economics Stella Russon, PT Primary Ashley Templeton, PT Biology Graeme Gibb.

Interviews for the post of Director of Sport will take place on 20 June with the successful candidate commencing 31 October 2016.

ML 1+2 Letter to P1 – P6 Parents

A letter had been issued to all P1-P6 parents recently outlining the arrangements for modern languages amongst primary children. The Board welcomed this.

Secondary Parents' Survey

A survey has been issued to all secondary parents (8 June) and results will be presented to the Board in August.

Emergency School Closure

The Rector explained the events that led up to the School closure on 31 May – complete loss of all power due to supply cable failure. He intimated the effectiveness of the Jordanhill School App for communication with parents. As a result of this incident some further work has been undertaken to enhance the resilience of the staff emergency text system.

Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN)

The Rector presented graphs comparing Numeracy levels in S2 with the results of the SSLN survey. 90% of Jordanhill pupils are performing "very well" at CfE Level 3 compared with 9% in the SLN survey. This highlighted the lack of clarity nationally as to how the attainment of pupils within the BGE phase is to be measured. All schools will report on the Literacy and Numeracy levels of pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 at the end of this session. Scottish Government is introducing standardised tests in Literacy and Numeracy from 2017 to help inform that process. The Rector also shared the S3 Numeracy data to be reported to Scottish Government.

74/15/2016 POLICY ON PRIVATE TUITION

The Board approved the Policy on Private Tuition. Whilst this will be applied with immediate effect, it was acknowledged that the Rector could exercise some discretion where exemptions may be appropriate.

75/15/2016 BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

An online survey will be sent to Board members (parents and staff nominated members) before the end of term to help evaluate Board effectiveness and will be discussed at the next Board meeting in August.

76/15/2016 PROGRESSION FROM BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION TO SENIOR PHASE

The Rector delivered a presentation outlining the key messages from recent Education Scotland guidance. It was noted that all the messages regarding curriculum content and approaches to assessment already formed part of the school's policy and practice and had done so from the outset.

The ES statement indicates that the number and range of courses undertaken in S4, S5 or S6 is a matter for schools, local authorities, parents and young people to decide, taking into account young people's individual needs. The school has looked in detail at the merits of alternative curriculum structures on several occasions, most recently in June 2015. At present, the senior management team sees no meaningful gains for Jordanhill pupils in changing the curriculum structure. While some models may offer advantages to other schools, they would mitigate against the interests of many of our pupils, particularly those for whom Higher Grade is not an appropriate route in S5.

Further guidance is due to be published at the end of 2016. The school will continue to review curriculum structures and bring the topic back to the Board in due course.

77/15/2016 FINAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)

The Rector highlighted changes and additions from the Outline SIP approved in January 2016.

It was noted that the School AGM would be incorporated into a Parents' Conference this year with some themes for parents to opt into. Ms Oliver and Mr Alexander both offered their time to meet with the Rector to tease out some ideas and present these back to the Board in August. Mrs McFadden suggested a possible speaker if interest for the AGM/Conference.

78/15/2016 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016-17

Dates were issued and agreed for 2016-17 and the Rector advised that in respect to the EA Trust meetings, a possible change to constitution which would be brought back to the August meeting for discussion.

79/15/2016 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 30 AUGUST 2016

Convenor _____

Date _____