

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 by Zoom.

PRESENT

Mr Ken Alexander
Mr Alister Cameron
Mr Anthony Daye
Mr Kenny Hastie
Mrs Deborah Hughes
Dr Helen Kelly
Mr Kenny MacRae
Mrs Emma Miller
Prof. Kevin O 'Dell
Ms Margaret Orr
Mr Gerry Sludden
Mr Graham Short
Mr Andrew Tinkler

ATTENDING

Mr John Anderson
Mr Dougie Brown
Mr Richard Buchan
Miss Wendy Grant

26/20/2021 APOLOGIES

None

27/20/2021 PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes and confidential minutes of 16 March 2021 were approved. Mr Short offered an update on last meeting's confidential matter which has for now been concluded. There may be an opportunity to explore this matter in the future.

The work plan offered a flavour of work to come to the Board over the course of the year, noting its fluidity and confirmation that it would be adapted to re-order or introduce items as or when necessary. Several items would be delivered this evening as part of the agenda.

One item is on the action grid at present, the Exclusions Policy which is dated for discussion in June.

28/20/2021 MATTERS ARISING

Covid-19 Update

Mr Anderson presented a summary of the school's response to COVID in line with the guidance and the school's full return on Monday 19th April.

All pupils and staff in secondary are wearing masks at all times and voluntary lateral flow testing is available to all secondary pupils and staff too.

Saturday sports activities started back last week on 23rd April and were well attended and welcomed by parents and pupils. At present no large gatherings are permitted and this precludes spectating at our sports events. The Sports Day will not operate in its usual fashion, instead weekday activities will be run for primary and secondary pupils that will generate good interest, competition and fun. We are not able to invite parents to spectate unfortunately due to Covid restrictions.

Prizegiving cannot operate in its usual grand way and recognition will be served to pupils in an alternative way.

Finally, parents' evenings online (virtual) have been very successful and will continue until there is any change to guidance around face-to-face meetings.

29/20/2021 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The rector offered an update on his plans to meet individually with all Board members to discuss governance and share of the published guidance around school boards. Dates will be arranged, and meetings will take place prior to the end of June 2021.

30/20/2021 RISK PLAN

The Board took the opportunity to review this risk register, noting the changes to some of the risk categories. Positive note was made of the offer of recurrent grant to the school for 2021-22 and as well as the commitment made by the Scottish Government to fund increased costs that may be suffered should probationers not be forthcoming in the new school session.

Mr Anderson shared the detail of a meeting he had with the headteacher at St Thomas Aquinas regarding the university playing fields and the partnership working that it is hoped will emerge there.

No questions were further raised, and the risk register was approved.

31/20/2021 SAFEGUARDING

Mr Brown, depute rector, shared a very informative presentation on safeguarding explaining the terminology, processes and procedures that are in place in school to deliver this very important responsibility and aspect of school life. He explained the relationship being developed with Glasgow City Council and the external agencies that play a fundamental part in the delivery of this school policy.

Self-evaluation is key to the ongoing review of this area and guidance emerges often which must be adhered to. The pastoral teams and child protection coordinators in school are trained to handle the most sensitive of situations, however it can be a very stressful aspect of school like to work through and Board members commented on the need to consider the supports offered to staff involved and cognisance of the health and well-being of these individuals.

Colleagues on the Board welcomed the concept of vulnerable children being a key consideration of every pupil support meeting and acknowledged there must be sufficient channels open to allow the school to get all the community information it needs from external agencies timeously to deliver the appropriate support.

It was also recognised that the school was very outward looking in its approaches which was welcomed by Board members.

The Board thanked Mr Brown and the school team for the diligence apparent in the handling of this very important policy.

32/20/2021 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT

The rector delivered a presentation summarising the school's approach to review of this area of the school which has been slowed as a result of Covid. The development office is currently vacant and unstaffed. The work of the development office stopped in May 2020 and since then colleagues in school have continued to manage the function in the absence of any dedicated personnel.

Lesley Boyd, a development professional, external to the school with education experience, was contracted to offer some consultancy during the month of March and provide recommendations and observations to help inform next steps. Her summary paper was discussed amongst Board members.

The Board engaged in a discussion on learning from the early stages of the development model that had been started late in 2017 in the school and offered their views on positive messaging about what the school gives back to all the pupils and community that is over and above classroom learning.

Mr Anderson shared the desire to renew focus on alumni and continue to extend a warm reach to all our parents. 'Friendraising' was discussed as a very important concept of growth and the concept of a committee of various representatives, including Board and parent members, to help grow and develop this function.

Mr Anderson acknowledged the fantastic work of the PTA and the important part they play in fundraising. Some Board colleagues expressed their energy and desire to capture the opportunities to raise funds from the parental community as soon as possible.

The next step is to formulate a development strategy to inform actions and timelines and Mr Anderson expressed the need to do this prior to acting, as capacity in school was very limited to engage in new activities without the appropriate personnel being in place.

The Board welcomed the opportunity to 'restart' development.

33/20/2021 RESPONSE TO JORDANHILL FAMILIES FOR INCLUSION

The rector shared a paper that he had received from a group in the community called Jordanhill Families for Inclusion focussing on admissions. The Board engaged in a discussion around the annual review of admissions in August and expressed their view that the best time to discuss admissions was during the annual August review.

The Board was unilateral in its view that the school is currently under a tremendous pressure to deliver the guidance that ensures Covid measures are in place to provide the safe and continued learning and teaching to all our pupils at a very important time in their education. The focus must continue to be very much in delivering these priorities.

Mr Anderson agreed to communicate this message back to the group.

34/20/2021 BUDGET 2021-22

The rector offered an update to the Board on the offer of recurrent and capital grant that had been settled with the Scottish Government for 2021-22. The school was content that unless exceptional circumstances prevail a break-even balanced budget should be achievable. He commented on extra funding for Covid recovery that the school had taken receipt of to offer additional support to pupils in primary, maths and English and counteract the anticipated losses that will emerge in the school food service and loss of income to be expected in school letting.

The Board welcomed this positive news and update.

35/20/2021 FINANCE UPDATE 2020-21

The bursar provided early feedback from the school audit and finances that have been finalised at year end. She confirmed that once the audit pension work was complete following the publication of the actuarial report in May, it was hoped the audit partner from Azets could attend the June Board meeting to present with Miss Grant, the final position and figures for 2020-21.

The year-end position was positive, given such an exceptional year, and the school has delivered a balance budget.

36/20/2021 NEW MEMBERSHIP – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The bursar confirmed that Mr Alexander, Mr MacRae and Professor O’Dell will all retire from the Board in September after the Annual General Meeting and a call for nominations would be issued later this week to the parent membership.

Mr Sludden will stand for re-election as a staff member for a further 3 years when the staff association meet in the coming months.

37/20/2021 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8 JUNE 2021

38/20/2021 OTHER BUSINESS

Members are asked to advise the rector or convenor of any additional business in advance of the meeting.

Convenor _____

Date _____