

**Minutes of the meeting of the South Bank University Academy School  
Advisory Board  
held at 4.00 pm on Thursday, 15 July 2021  
MS Teams**

**Present**

Chris Mallaband (Chair)  
Alex Drake (Vice-Chair)  
Safia Barikzai  
Philipp Herzberg  
John Taylor  
Claire Arkwright  
Sally Dowman

**Apologies**

Ciara Carroll

**In attendance**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Philipp Herzberg and Cameron Whitehead were not present at the meeting. Sally Dowman would join at 5pm. All of SLT bar JPH and HDA were present. CM thanked SLT for their work and urged the team to take a full break over summer.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Risk presentation**

DCU presented the local risk register and context. This will be reviewed by the SAB and discussed at next meeting in September.

**4. Academy priorities introduction**

JTA presented strategy points for discussion document, which has been shared along with the SEF, to inform development planning work. Each member of the SLT presented 'the problems' in turn.

AMO outlined that in her areas of responsibility, one problem area is literacy: an issue with reading particularly hampered by LRC closure. Reading ages are below examination demands. Another problem area is the level of expertise and experience of middle leaders. Developing these will drive quality of education more widely.

MLE outlined that in his areas, one problem is the assessment system predicated on formative assessment based on responsive teaching. Young inexperienced staff and remote learning have created a break in the continuum of understanding amongst teaching staff, which means training need. Pupil premium is another key area with KPI gap in previous years which is not shifting. The reasons for this need to be unpicked and tackled. How to get parental engagement through opening up is another key question.

NMO outlined that only one set of results from inaugural year group have been published: the improvement since has not been captured in published data, hindering student recruitment. This one set of data showed relative underperformance locally, impacting on demand. There are still internal gaps in performance eg gender gap, although this is reducing over time. Pupil premium gaps are being addressed through a variety of means including self-regulated learning.

JBA outlined a focus on high numbers of fixed term exclusions and number of repeat 'offenders' in relation to engagement with learning; this is driving isolation room referrals. Need to get better at meeting students' individual needs eg unmet needs being interpreted and dealt with as behavioural issues. Plus how can we intervene early?

HDA outlined challenges in relation to student recruitment: falling roll situation in Year 7 and limited first choice places.

5. **Breakout groups**

6. **Plenary discussion, feedback and next steps**

**Group 1 feedback**

How can LSBU add to our brand to aid appeal and boost recruitment?

On enrichment eg Saturday school.

No shortage of great ideas, gap is in resourcing. Need correct support from trust and group.

School needs to ask how governors can be involved.

Happy for governors to be committed to support. Challenge is how to get the news out about our great school!

**Group 2 feedback**

How can we do more to articulate and flesh out our values, bringing parents and the wider community in?

We accept that the values had to be developed quickly so now need to engage with community successfully so they gather meaning. Ideas discussed on how to engage with parents with targeted sessions eg 'so now you've got a teenager'. Academic mentors powerful-sounding for breaking cycle of underachievement. Developed assessment strategy including better use of formative assessment and responsive teaching.

**Group 3 feedback**

Some thoughts about structure. What are we losing from combining inclusion into SLT? How will middle leadership meetings work. Piece around community

involvement and use of language / style of comms from the school. Interesting question on what should we keep from lockdown?

**Final feedback**

Refreshed focus on link governance requested through sustained engagements in focus areas. SLT to discuss and agree most powerful potential areas of focus be they by subject or theme.

John very keen to welcome governors in to experience the school in a working day.

Governors felt the ideas presented by SLT were comprehensive and captured what needs doing and they are keen to be written into the plan to add support where they can.

Governors believe that achievement gaps were also a key feature.

The focus on values is key - and how to structure some opportunities for families and community to come together to critique them and discuss what they should expect to see if these are the academy values.

**Date of next meeting  
4.00 pm, on Thursday, 16 September 2021**

**Confirmed as a true record**

..... (Chair)