

**Summary Notes from the Meeting of the
Association of Sandwell Governing Bodies (ASGB)
held at 6.15pm on 13th February 2019 at
Guardian House, West Bromwich**

Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Howard, Vice-Chair welcomed guests and members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies and declarations of interest were noted.

New Complaints Policy – Andy Timmins, Group Head, Education, Skills and Employment Sandwell

Discussion and comments from members following the presentation focussed on the lack of guidance from the DfE. Mr Timmins reminded everyone that legal advice can be sought if required.

The main message was to follow the school's complaints process and retain clear and accurate records. Support and advice was available from Mr Timmins team and Governor Support Services. Presentation attached.

ACTION: Members agreed that more training on complaints should be available. Craig Felton to be asked to arrange.

Update from Craig Felton, Director Governance SIPS

Mr Felton was unable to attend and submitted apologies.

Benefits of Trainee Teachers in school - Alison Pemberton Deputy Course Leader, PGCE Primary and Early Years, Birmingham City University

Discussion around the advantages of having a trainee teacher such as investment in the future workforce. Presentation attached.

Staff and Student Well-being - Saeed Nasser, Well-being Governor, Ormiston Forge Academy

Mr Nasser talked about the work being developed at school in creating space for young people to deal with social and emotional issues, stressing that it was as important as their academic development; giving teachers the tools to develop building resilience both in themselves and in their pupils.

Well-being for teachers was helping them with anxiety, workload and the ability to switch off. Students were being helped to develop resourcefulness and a sense of responsibility for themselves.

They are encouraged to think about how they responded to what happens around them and use reason to reflect on how they learn from their experiences. They also learned how to relax and reflect on their lives and how they feel about and deal with pressures.

Siddique commented on the success of the work done in school and how this has supported safeguarding in school by being proactive and tackling issues early on. He also commented on the importance of taking care of staff as well as children.

ACTION: Support Officer to circulate details of the interventions – see below.

Minutes of the Meetings held 14th November 2018

Minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

Updates from Executive Committee

- The NGA Development for Chairs' programme being run in Sandwell had at least 15 Sandwell governors participating. It was noted that the ASGB's role in organising the training did not appear in the Sips Gazette
- The ASGB website would soon to be launched. Mr Hussain asked that all photographs and blogs for the executive committee are completed as soon as possible so that it can be launched in the next couple of weeks. There should then be a period of time following this to track the use of the website and react to this as appropriate. Feedback from ASGB members will be asked for upon the launch.
- NGA Funding for Schools Campaign had been launched. Mr Hussain informed the meeting about this and encouraged participation.

ACTION: Members agreed that a letter from ASGB should also be sent to all our Sandwell MPs.

Open forum/Any Other Business

Ideas for future sessions included the Wellbeing Award and Engaging Parents

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be a joint ASGB/Chairs' Forum meeting to be held on 10th April 2019. Details to follow.

Additional notes on Staff and Student Well-being agenda item received after the meeting:

Mr Nasser shared with members what Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath did to help their students and staff to adopt wellbeing and resiliency as part of their school ethos.

He spoke briefly about some of the mindfulness sessions that they deliver to staff and as a consequence, how staff can promote these ideas and concepts to students.

Mr Nasser also talked about the pressures that staff and students might be exposed to as a result of simply focusing on attainment alone without looking at the person in a holistic manner. He spoke briefly about mindfulness and how to approach life events by adopting a moment to moment mindful awareness.

Mr Nasser concluded by talking about the idea of cultivating resilience by adopting a systematic way of looking at the five R's which focused on cultivating and building a sense of resilience, responsibility, resourcefulness, reason and reflection.

These steps, he believed would nurture wellbeing and help young people to be 'mindful' instead of being 'mind-full', helping them to develop problem solving skills when faced with difficult life events and to recover from adversity and setbacks, allowing them to grow and become adaptable to the challenges which they will face in life.

Please contact the Support Officer if you have any questions or would like any more information on the staff and student well-being agenda item.