

**Meeting of the Association of Sandwell Governing Bodies (ASGB) on  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 6.15pm in Guardian House, West Bromwich**

**Present:**

Mr B Byatt – The Meadows Sports College and ASGB Executive  
Mr B Patel – Great Bridge and Chair ASGB Executive  
Mr D Fereday – King George V School  
Mrs L Howard – Lyng Primary, Newtown Primary and ASGB Executive  
Mrs E Benbow – Moorlands Primary and ASGB Executive  
Mrs NJ Khatun – The Westminster School and Hanbury Primary  
Ms N Baig – Rowley Hall Primary School  
Mr J Padam – Pennyhill Primary School  
Mr S Hussain – Ormiston Forge Academy and ASGB Executive

**Apologies**

Mrs T Bate – Brandhall Primary School  
Mrs J Gardner – St. Francis Xavier Primary  
Dr. G Gomez – St. John Bosco  
Mrs. P Brown – Ryders Green Primary and ASGB Executive  
Mrs J Poxon – Joseph Turner Primary and ASGB Executive  
Mr P Piddock – St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Ms. J L'Herroux – Moat Farm Infant School

**In Attendance**

Mr Richard Oakes – Manager Sandwell Residential Centres  
Mr David Lowbridge-Ellis – Evolve Teaching School  
Mr Craig Felton – Director Governance, SIPS Education  
Miss Lynne Foster, Support Officer

**21/19 Welcome and Apologies**

Mr B Patel, MBE, Chair of the ASGB welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies recorded above were noted.

**22/19 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair enquired whether any member had any direct, indirect or pecuniary interest in the business to be discussed. Mr Hussain's declaration of interest in relation to the website had been previously noted.

**23/19 Richard Oakes, Manager, Sandwell Residential Education Service**

Mr Oakes introduced a power point presentation, sharing his enthusiasm for Sandwell's Residential Centres and the benefits they offered to pupils and schools. He focused on school visits from a governors' perspective and had included some questions that governors might like to ask to satisfy themselves about the value, benefits and safety of visits. The presentation and handout 'The role of (Sandwell) governors in supporting, checking, and getting best value from school visits' was sent out with the presentation and Summary Notes (Appendix 1) to all governors after the meeting.

Mr Oakes encouraged school staff and/or governors to contact him to discuss any plans for school visits. It was

**Resolved** that the presentation on school visits be received and noted.

### **24/19 Update from Craig Felton, Director Governance SIPS**

Mr Felton advised that school governance was quiet at the moment, there had been no recent updates to the handbook, nor regulatory changes although a new complaints policy had been launched, which governors should be aware of. The Chairs' training and the Clerks' training via NGA was progressing and was well attended.

SIPS Education now supported over 250 schools in seven or eight Local Authorities. There was little movement towards converting to academy status in Sandwell but this was not the case elsewhere. The emphasis was on growing MATS.

Inspections under the new Ofsted framework were not so focused on data and this had been evidenced during the inspections that had taken place recently.

In response to a question, Mr Felton confirmed that there had been changes in Cabinet linked to the 20/30 vision, these included changes to the role titles. It was **Resolved** that the Governance update from Mr Felton be received and noted.

*Mr Felton and Mr Fereday left the meeting at 7.05pm  
Mr Hussain joined the meeting at 7.15pm*

### **25/19 David Lowbridge-Ellis, Joint Lead on the DfE Commission in the West Midlands – Workload in Schools**

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis presented a power point presentation and distributed a handout 'Practical tools: example of a whole school approach to wellbeing' which gave some examples of how schools might reduce workload. He also distributed a flyer, inviting members to attend a workshop focusing on data, marking and planning/preparation. Full details of the presentation and additional comments and questions from members were sent out together with the handout and flyer shortly after the meeting. It was

**Resolved** that presentation from Mr Lowbridge-Ellis be received and noted.

*Mr Lowbridge-Ellis was thanked for attending and  
left the meeting at 7.35pm*

### **26/19 Opportunity for members to share their own thoughts/good practice with regard to the previous agenda item.**

Members took the opportunity to discuss the ideas presented by Mr Lowbridge-Ellis and had various questions as to how the proposals might work in practice. Full details were included in the Summary Notes, sent to all members shortly after the meeting.

### **27/19 Minutes of the Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and Matters Arising**

Members, having been presented with the minutes of the above meeting, it was **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be approved.

There were no matters arising which were not already on the agenda.

### **28/19 Updates from Executive Committee Members**

- All four local MP's had now responded to ASGB's letters regarding the financial situation in schools and indicated that they would be pleased to meet with governors. As it was likely that meetings would need to take place on a Friday, the support clerk was asked to try and establish some convenient dates to put forward to the MP's.

- Mr Hussain had been a judge for the recent NGA National Governance Awards and was very pleased to advise that the overall winner was a Birmingham school, James Brindley Academy, which had been successful in overcoming some huge challenges, taking the school from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' in just two years. Another Midlands school had also been recognised for setting up its own college to provide a pathway to post 16 students when no other avenue met their specific needs. It was

**Resolved** that the updates from members be received and noted.

**29/19 Open Forum/Any Other Business**

We were very pleased to welcome two new governors to the meeting who had been introduced to their schools through 'Governors for Schools'. As governor recruitment was an issue for many schools, we will be following up on this to share with members.

**30/19 Next Meeting Dates**

10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 AGM 6.15pm to include Chairs' Forum

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

**Chair.....Dated**

Note: Full details of the meeting were included in the Summary Notes sent to members following the meeting.