

MINUTES

TCAT Trust Board

Friday 12 June 2020, 10am

PRESENT:

Howard Platt (HP)	Steven Whatmore (SW)
Jane Griffiths (JG)	Matthew Grant (MG)
Linda Waterson (LW)	Tim Long (TL)
Sheila Yates (SY)	Adrienne Lang (AL)
Susan Richardson (SR)	Ben Logan (BL)
Lucy Muir (LM)	John Monaghan (JM)
Stuart Titchard (ST)	Vicky Briggs (VB)

IN ATTENDANCE: **Lisa Adams – Clerk to Governors**

Part One – non confidential business

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Wider opening of schools

A copy of the Local Authority and TCAT statement were circulated to governors with the agenda.

AM reported on the reasons behind the wider opening of schools being pushed back to 15 June 2020. He informed Trustees that he was asked to join a meeting on Sunday with the Local Authority focus group to discuss the proposal. It was noted that Public Health felt that it was safe to open schools however the feeling was that it hadn't been communicated properly. The group met again on Wednesday and it was agreed to open from Monday 15 June 2020. **SW asked** if all schools were comfortable with this approach. VB reported that they are.

ST asked what the union position is on the wider opening of schools. AM noted that he is hearing different things from different representatives however collectively and publicly they are supportive of our approach.

LW asked what the potential student take up was. AM reported that it is looking likely to be 80% however as confidence grows this is likely to increase. VB noted that the schools didn't ask parents if they were sending the children back again and went with the initial figures.

SR asked if it was the 'r' rate which was worrying them. AM reported that it is difficult to answer definitively and public health made the point that the 'r' rate is just one factor. The government are suggesting that the 'r' rate is below 1 in all regions. The last information which was provided suggested that the 'r' rate was 0.4 in Warrington however no one is claiming responsibility for this figure. Trustees were informed that public health did say that the reason for the high 'r' rate was a consequence to the increase in the number of cases in care homes being reported.

SW proposed that the phased return starts on 15 June 2020. This was seconded by SY. Trustees approved the wider opening.

3. GCSE Grades

HP and JM left the meeting.

AM reported that the document circulated to Trustees is just for information at this point. The grades will be submitted to the exam boards today. Trustees were assured that this has gone through a rigorous process with an element of challenge at every level. All schools submitted a report which was then checked by AM. Any subjects that appeared too high or too low were challenged with the Headteacher. **SW asked** when the final grades would be announced. It was noted that there is a process of moderation and the results will be announced at the same time as normal. **SW asked** why some of the results had been highlighted. ST reported that the data had been shared with the quality and standards committee chair at Sir Thomas Boteler. He informed Trustees that as a Local Governing Board they are comfortable with the grades. **ST asked** if there had been a consensus with the grades. AM reported that there had been some discussions back and to regarding some of them. The computer science hub had been asked to sample some of the papers at Padgate Academy as it was felt they were too high. Following the sampling they were satisfied that they were in line. LW commented that relatively few were challenged with intervention from AM and feels confident that the process was robust.

SW asked if there had been any push back from the FFT. AM noted that he is not sure of the process. Each year there will be a percentage provided of a national cohort.

4. A-Level Grades

MG reported that there is an additional layer of scrutiny in terms of the A-level grades. There are some amendments to be made and Trustees will be presented with them for the next meeting.

5. Policies

- **Attendance**
- **Interim Safeguarding**

It was noted that there have been a few minor changes to the policies.

SW proposed that Trustees adopt the attendance and interim safeguarding policies. This was seconded by ST. All Trustees approved the policies. AL to update the policies on the TCAT website.

The meeting closed at 10.45am