

Our Vision:
Achievement, Wellbeing, Communication and Independence.

Our Engagement Values: *Exploration, Realisation,
Anticipation, Persistence and Initiation*



MINUTES
ADDINGTON VALLEY ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2021 AT 4 PM
HELD VIRTUALLY

Present: Lucy Davey, Chair (LD)
John Reilly, Principal (JR)
Kemi Arogundade (KA)
Will Scott (WS)
Janet Sherborne (JS)

In attendance: Joe Shepherd (JSh)
Susanne Wicks, Clerk (SW)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

LD welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jordana Berk.

3. UPDATE ON RETURN TO SCHOOL

JR reported that the Government mandated full return to school on 8 March had gone really well with more or less 100% attendance every day. Some children had been out of school for a long time, so found it a little challenging at first but generally most have settled very well.

JR shared a short video sent to him by a parent of their son who had been out of school for nearly two years when he joined Addington Valley Academy with very low levels of verbal communication skills. The video shows the progress he has made. JR noted that, for staff, this kind of positive feedback has a huge impact on morale and it had been heartening to hear so much positive feedback during this week's parents' meetings. Governors thanked JR for sharing the video with them.

4. UPDATE ON THE NEW BUILD

JR shared an overview plan of the new school site and some photographs showing progress of the build externally and internally.

Governors noted the school will have access to both a MUGA and a grass playing field, both of which will be available to hire to community users out of school hours.

JR reported that the newly appointed Fundraising Officer at OHCAT will be supporting the school as a priority, assisting with the submission of bids to fund additional external play and curriculum equipment which will particularly helpful for this cohort, many of whom struggle to cope with sitting at a desk in a classroom for long periods of time. An external play company has been engaged in order to

support the development of play facilities in and around the site, which will include a sand play area, musical instruments, a water feature and water play tables and large outside chalkboards. Play equipment will be installed that can be built over and around as and when there is funding available. In addition the children will have four outdoor swings and a sunken trampoline. It is planned that works will begin in June 2021.

Action: JR undertook to invite LD to undertake a tour of the building site on 6 April 2021.

JR shared the latest version of the contingency plan created in the event of a delay in completion of the new build. He reported that the latest update is that the building will be ready for handover on 15 September 2021. Whilst there is a plan in place to handle this delay, should there be any further slippage it will become increasingly difficult to manage and it could mean that the move may have to be deferred until after half-term or even until after the Christmas break. Those children who are familiar with the current temporary site may be able to stay there but there wouldn't be room for the new intake, so there would be a remote home learning offer for them, supplemented by weekly home visits.

5. UPDATE ON STAFFING

JR presented the proposed staffing structure to be in place for September when there is expected to be 80 children on roll.

JR was pleased to inform Governors that, following interviews last Thursday, Joe Shepherd and Anna Huzzey had been appointed Vice Principal for the Primary and Secondary phase respectively. He reported that the field of applicants had been very strong with five candidates interviewed. Governors congratulated JSh on his appointment.

LD asked if Anna Huzzey would be able to give any time to the new school next term, and JR explained that she is hopeful that her current school will be able to release her.

JR gave further detail of the proposed staffing structure, noting that eleven classes are planned at the moment to be split across the Early Years/Primary and Secondary phases appropriately, depending on numbers.

JR outlined his plans for the Director of Sport role. The successful candidate will develop sport and the outdoor curriculum for students to get the full benefit of all of the facilities on offer, with input from therapists and community groups.

JR noted that, as well as the recruitment of eleven teachers, interviews for which will take place over the next three days, there will be range of support staff to be recruited next term. He advised that there were nearly 40 applications for the teaching vacancies and fifteen of those have been invited for interview.

6. UPDATE ON PUPIL NUMBERS

JR updated Governors on the projected intake for September 2021 and shared a breakdown of numbers by year group. He reminded Governors that the current

number on roll is 22, with a further 32 offers made to primary school and Year 7 aged children.

Since those 32 offers were made, details of ten more children have been sent to the school, as well as a further twelve more consultations to go through. In addition the LB Croydon Early Years Team have indicated that there are likely to be 16-20 applications.

KA asked what the maximum intake would be for September 2021 and JR confirmed the school was funded on the basis of 80 places and any more than that will impact on levels of staffing and therapists in the structure and noted that discussions are ongoing about further appropriate growth in numbers.

LD thanked JR for the update and noted that Governors looked forward to receiving further progress reports.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19 May 2021 at 4 pm.

Action: JR undertook to contact Governors to arrange portfolio meetings.

The meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

Signed: _____ **(Lucy Davey, Chair)**

Date: _____