

**Islington Futures – A Federation of Community Schools
Action Notes of the Federal Chairs Committee
Wednesday 11 November 2020, 8.00am – virtual meeting**

Present:

Jill McLaughlin (JMc)(left 8.30am)Chair of Governing Board, Chair for the Meeting
 Caspar Woolley(CW) Vice Chair, Chair of Chairs’ Committee
 Jo Dibb (JD) Executive Headteacher
 Pauline Edgar(PE) Chair of Federal Achievement Committee
 Alex Bols (AB) Chair of Beacon High School Committee
 Mary Berrisford (MB) Chair of EGA School Committee
 Aanya Madhani (AM) Safeguarding Lead
 Hilary Furey (HF) Clerk

Agenda Item		Action
1.	Apologies and Consent Apologies for absence had been received from, and consent given to, Will Garner and David Harrison.	Clerk
2.	Declaration of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Action Notes and Matters Arising Action notes of the meeting held on 23 October 2020 were Agreed . Following a detailed discussion, and further to the previously agreed items for the Federal Governing Board meeting on 24 November 2020, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DH to include in his F,R&R report a clear explanation of the process and progress of the facilities and premises management insourcing/outsourcing review project. ● AB would work with AS and JD on a presentation of Beacon High’s Pathway Project and the tri-school model. ● JMc would provide an update on the Black Lives Matter Task Group which AW has agreed to co-chair. ● WG would update governors on the primary parent governor vacancy and process. 	Clerk DH AB JMc WG
4.	Remote Learning and Attendance Chairs confirmed that they were receiving weekly attendance figures and noted that pupil numbers were good compared to national figures. At EGA approximately 100 Year 8 pupils had been notified on Monday morning to stay home, with 70% attending virtual lessons from Period 2 onwards, and JD said that schools were in a stronger position to move quickly to remote learning and parents were more aware of what children should be doing. Responding to a query, JD said that, while a critical point had not yet been reached in any of the schools, senior leaders were concerned about how to	

	<p>operate schools in a safe environment should there be a number of staff absences. Though it was not possible to give a precise number or percentage for that, schools were looking at all aspects, including a rota system for students. JD confirmed that office staff at both Beacon High and EGA were split around each school and Faculty staff were being encouraged to use a mixture of spaces, where possible. JD confirmed that SLT would also need to take into consideration each school's ability to remain open, depending on the number of temporary cover staff being employed as opposed to school staff.</p> <p>JD said that, generally, students were happy to be back in school however there were a number of exclusions at EGA which were mainly impacted by external community factors. Behaviour was good at Beacon High, and there had been one exclusion at Copenhagen. Year 11 students were anxious about exams and assessments, and JD and Headteachers were concerned for Year 10 students and future decisions on how exams might look. AB said that Ofqual's aim is to hold exams in 2021 with contingencies in place and results broadly comparable to 2020 results, rather than those of 2019, and with a flattening out of results across subject areas. JD confirmed that, as mentioned previously, re-sit exams had been taken by some ex-students.</p> <p>Chairs thanked JD for her report and were reassured of pupil and staff attendance and safety measures in place across all schools.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update on Executive Headteacher Recruitment</p> <p>Further to meetings with Krasi Toneva (KT), Islington HR consultant, Chairs heard that a draft person specification and recruitment timeline, as well as a selection of activities and processes for consideration, had been produced and the application pack was currently being compiled. Chairs heard of a point raised during KT's conversation with one school's SLT and which, it was agreed, was the responsibility of each Headteacher to reassure staff of the process. The remaining SLTs are due to meet with KT over the next week. JMc said that she was not unsympathetic to the views expressed and it was usual for there to be concerns about leadership changes, which we all had to help the Federation overcome. CW suggested that JD attempt to reassure Headteachers with a view to their providing similar reassurance to their own SLT members. JD said that she had already had such conversations and would do so again.</p> <p>JMc left the meeting at 8.30am.</p> <p>CW requested clarification of exactly what was required from Chairs, as per JMc's comments. It was not clear whether JMc was asking for feedback on the notes sent yesterday. AB suggested that any specific comments be sent to JMc and AM and PE would review the notes and liaise with JMc. AM suggested that a message of thanks and appreciation be given to all those who had expressed views via the different meetings and Jamboard activity. AM clarified that the role was part-time, as stated in the documentation, and said that she was waiting for descriptions of three of the Federation schools. After discussion, it was agreed that AM and PE would discuss the documents and Chairs' comments with JMc, before notifying what, and when, further interaction or feedback was required. JD agreed to speak to KT about introducing and framing conversations with SLTs.</p>	<p>JD</p> <p>JMc/AM /PE</p> <p>JD</p>

	Further to a query regarding the Teaching School Alliance, JD said that teaching schools were moving into hubs and that it would be likely to continue even if the new executive head was not a National leader of Education.	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JD told Chairs that, following discussions with Federation Heads, and other Headteachers across Islington, there was a focus on Headteacher wellbeing with most feeling overwhelmed at having to operate at a different level in having to bear the anxieties of other stakeholders. JD was concerned that, as with students and staff, small things could become much larger and could eventually take a toll. CW noted, and it was agreed by all Chairs, that this was a very important issue and that every effort should be made to offer as much moral support as possible to the Headteachers especially in these challenging times.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting would be confirmed shortly.</p>	Clerk

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting	
Chair's signature	
Chair's name	Caspar Woolley
Date	13 Jan 2021