

**South West Hub Board (SWH 10)
Meeting Minutes
Monday 29th March 2021
11.00 am-13.00pm, Virtual Meeting**

Chair: Dr Molly Warrington

Clerk: Louise Houston

Hub Board Members: Molly Warrington, Nitesh Gor, Stephen Howe, Salina Ventress, Mike Younger

Also in attendance: Bhavini Budhdev (Area Finance Lead), Carolyn Dickinson (SW Hub Director), Mike Ion (Education Director), Ashley Milum (Avanti Gardens Principal), Abigail Atkins (Avanti Park Principal), Phil Arnold (Avanti Hall Principal)

Recommended RESOLUTIONS for full Board meeting

REF	Resolution
SHB10-R1	The SW Hub Board have agreed to start the process of electing SSC members in September 2021 to enable new parents to the school to have an input.

ACTIONS

REF	Action	Lead
SHB10 – 01	Hub Director to provide separate data for reading, writing and maths for all SW Schools.	CD
SHB10 – 02	Hub Director to adjust number of EHCPs on the Avanti Park data sheet to 7 instead of 9.	CD
SHB10 – 03	The Hub Board Director will provide a further Principal Self-Update at the end of the academic year to show progress made.	CD
SHB10 - 04	Hub Board Chair to circulate SSC transition paper to Principals	MW

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Resignation and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received by Jo Evans prior to the meeting taking place. A resignation was received by Suzanne Flack. The Chair thanked Suzanne for her contribution to the SW Hub Board.



2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest to report.

3. Minutes & Confidential Minutes of meeting 25 January 2021 to be approved

The Chair requested that the reference in Item 9 to Sept 22 be changed to Sept 21. Following on from this amendment, the minutes of the meeting 25th January 2021 were approved as an accurate record. The confidential minutes of the meeting 25th January 2021 were also approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

All actions from the previous meeting have been completed. The SW Hub Board noted that the planning for the Town Halls is underway. The SW Hub Board also agreed that, as the SW Hub Board meetings will be reduced from 2 per term to 1 per term, the South West Principals will be invited to all SW Hub Board meetings, rather than alternate meetings as previously stated.

5. AST matters: items from Board of Trustees

None to report

6. Finance and Risk

Covered in the confidential minutes.

7. Hub Directors Report

Data Update:

The Data Update for the South West schools was circulated to the attendees prior to the meeting. Column J of each data sheet showed the data for what was achieved combining reading, writing and maths in Spring 2.

For Avanti Gardens, the score is low as the quality of writing in the South West schools reflects the previous Steiner model focused on storytelling rather than writing. However, the maths and reading scores are better. Writing is therefore the top focus area of improvement with the expectation of sharp progress by next half term. It was also noted that the school has 22 pupils on the SEND register, which is above the national average. The SW Hub Board have requested separate data for maths, writing and reading for all South West Schools.

Avanti Hall data shows similar patterns to Avanti Gardens with quality of writing also poor. In context, Avanti Hall has a higher-than-average SEND cohort, with 15.4% of pupils requiring EHCPs and 33.3% SEN support. These pupils made up most of the fixed term exclusions in the previous year. In comparison, the national average for EHCPs is 1.7% and 10.8% for SEN support. As a result of the support and measures put in place, there was a significant decrease in fixed term exclusions compared to the previous year. In term 1 there were 33



fixed term exclusions. Term 2 showed a drop to 16.5 fixed term exclusions and by Term 3, there was a further drop to 3 fixed term exclusions. Teachers have improved their understanding of SEND and specific SEND requirements. As such the numbers of pupils on the SEND register has dropped dramatically as assessments of needs are far more accurate now.

Avanti Park data also shows similar patterns to the other South West schools. However, an issue with the recording of attendance on Arbor has been identified, which gives a slightly inaccurate result. These issues are currently being investigated with Arbor. The school is working closely with parents to raise attendance expectations, especially around SEND pupils. Some persistent absence data also pertains to a small number of SEND pupils, who are looking at an alternative provision but have not come off roll just yet. In all three South West schools, some parents felt that their SEND children were too vulnerable to be in school during lockdown.

It was noted by the Education Director that all 3 of the South West schools have been significantly impacted by the Covid lockdown with varied levels of engagement with online learning. There are Covid related catch up plans in place, which should result in a significant rise in outcomes. Targets are cohort specific and as such targets will vary per school in line with the different cohorts. The overall point made was that if the schools get the ethos right, then the data should follow. It was agreed that schools should not lose sight of the data but at the same time should not be driven by it.

Ambition Institute Plans:

The Trust has purchased the Ambition Institute “Transforming Teaching” Programme for all 3 of the South West, as well as some of the other Avanti schools. This CPD programme will help support staff careers at all levels, ensuring that the Trust retains key staff members.

Principal Self Updates:

The Principal Self-Updates were circulated to the SW Hub Board prior to the meeting. The grades relate to Ofsted criteria and the SW Hub Board recognised that the reports were transparent and honest. The Hub Board Director will provide a further Principal Self-Update at the end of the academic year to show progress made. There has also been an external process of evaluation by Adrian Percival, who will provide an update to the Trust Board in the July meeting.

SEND/Safeguarding Report:

The SEND/Safeguarding Report was circulated to the SW Hub Board prior to the meeting. Key highlights included work on each school’s EYFS areas, curriculum adaptations for SEND pupils and SEND/Safeguarding Improvement Group meetings. The ESFA no longer feel the need to attend these meetings as they are satisfied with the rapid progress made, but still receive the notes from the meetings.

8. SW Hub: 3-year strategy



The SW Hub 3 Year Strategy was circulated to the SW Hub Board prior to the meeting. The strategy contains 3 broad strands, which are Teacher Development, Leadership Development and Curriculum Development, which includes the cycle of assessment. The plans are for this strategy to be a 3-year programme but could potentially be longer due to the impact of Covid. The strategy details the vision for the 3 South West schools, which will enable the schools to align with the Avanti Schools Trust vision. The Trust is also clearly communicating this vision to parents. In the second part of the vision, the plans are to promote structured outdoor learning in all primary phases. The Trust will pursue Forest School Status for all 3 South West schools. Timetabled character development is also part of the long-term vision.

As part of the ongoing transition from the Steiner model to the Avanti model, the Trust are working hard to promote the schools as having a distinctive ethos rather than an alternative ethos. The key aim is to tap into the local community through effective marketing.

9. Evolution from Hub Board to SSCs

The SW Hub Board Chair drew attention to the paper discussed at the previous meeting outlining the transition of the South West schools to an SSC model. It was agreed that existing hub board members may chair the SSCs until the transition is complete. The elections of the SSC members will follow the standard procedure including communications to parents, forms for nominations and a process for voting. The SW Hub Board have agreed to start the process of electing SSC members in early September 2021 to enable new parents to the school to have an input. The Chairs of each SSC will be clarified first, and the SSC members will be provided with a set of values that they would need to adhere to before the election process so that there is transparency of expectations. The process of election will be managed by the schools.

10. Principals: green shoots and key challenges

Covered in the confidential minutes.

11. Urgent Matters

No urgent matters identified.

12. Identification of confidential item(s)

Items 6 and 10 were deemed confidential and are included in the confidential minutes.

13. Overview of actions

The Clerk provided the SW Hub Board with an overview of the actions from the meeting.

14. Date of next two meetings:

24th May 2021 and 5th July. It is hoped that the July meeting might take place at Frome.

The following dates were proposed for Hub Board meetings for the next academic year:



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18th October (Bristol)
28th February (Exeter)
23rd May (Frome)