



SBS Board Meeting

Date: 13 October 2022

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: SBS Boardroom – Admin Area

Present:

Sameer Merchant (SM)

Louay Khatib (LK)

Zara Harrington (ZH)

Louise McGeever (LMC)

Brian Horwell (BH)

Fahad Albanni (FA)

Teju Sonuga (TS)

Claire Drinkwater (CD)

Aoife O'Connell (AOC)

Dara Davey (DD)

Lisa Wells (LW)

Apologies:

Lianne Fridd

1. SM welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the new member NAME and gave a brief overview of the Board.
2. FA introduced himself.
3. ZH gave an overview of the school board from the Principals report and explained that Aoc and DD had been invited to talk about the Pastoral support within the school and the recent 1-day KHDA inspection on the Wellbeing Framework.

4. DD gave an overview of the Wellbeing Support in Primary.
 - Pulse
 - Purple Perma Students
 - Assessment Tracker sheets - new this year
 - Care and Support Register
 - Check ins with new students (103 pupils this academic year)
 - Introduction of Purple Points
 - Survey results - 98% of pupils are happy in school
 - Staff also have Pulse - 100% of Staff are happy and excited to come to work
 - Parents Survey - You Said We Did - as a result we've introduced 'Mingle Monday', tailored parent workshops to different year groups

5. AoC -talked about Wellbeing Activities in the Secondary School
 - Students taking responsibility for their learning and wellbeing --> introduced the 'Achieves' programme
 - Student surveys reveal that pupils want/need real life skills – Achieves is SBS bespoke programme
 - Introduction of Online safety and digital leaders and Wellbeing Wednesdays
 - MH First Aiders - trained peer mentors by Lighthouse Arabia - ongoing partnership between SBS and Lighthouse Arabia; tailor-making sessions for teenagers to be run 3 times a term. Lighthouse Arabia keen to join SBS Board.
 - Activities led by students e.g. Sleep
 - Issues in a box
 - AoC analysis - CAT scores below 90 -created 'Racing Minds' programme with Tarana (School Counsellor) and LINK
 - Functional Learning groups - focus on skills
 - Purple register - students stay on register until next data point
 - Clear that academics are being affected by wellbeing

6. SM asked if Achieves is only for Secondary Pupils
 - ZH explained 'programmes' within the school from FS to Year 10; Safa Super Heroes --> Learning Gears --> Achieves Programme

7. CD asked if there had been a rise in concerns from KS3 to KS4
 - BH explained that there was some anxiety, but the cohort was small and close-knit. In startup schools (such as SBS) there is no modelling of behaviour/learning from others experiences of exams and transition points.

- BH explained that pupils chose their year 10 options in year 9 - but have been given the first 5 weeks of this term to review choices and BH said that there was more movement than expected so subjects have been added to option blocks to meet students' needs/requirements.
8. CD asked if there is a tendency for an academic dip from year 9 to year 10.
- BH explained the forecasting from year 9 to year 11 and that there is transparency of the system within school, which pupils are good at translating to their peers.
 - AoC explained that Achieves helps build resilience.
9. Teju asked how the school is supporting students of determination.
- AoC – talked about correlation between Students of Determination and the demerits system - SBS looking at building accountability and strategies to support these students
 - ZH explained the Achieves touches on some of the Functional Skills training (UK based curriculum with no UAE equivalent at the moment)
 - Achieves is an actual lesson
10. Teju asked if students are given time to work on their emotional wellbeing.
- AoC confirmed they were.
- ZH expressed her thanks and appreciation to AoC and DD.
11. LK asked who sets the surveys up.
- ZH explained that the surveys are produced by SBS and they are both standalone and built on previous surveys, also some questions are set by KHDA and then SBS adds questions based on information from staff and pupils on the ground.
 - Term 1 survey is always about communication, seeing if parents are getting what they need. Feedback is always that we don't communicate.
12. LK - asked about how to assess the effectiveness of the programme at the end.
- AoC - in specific lessons e.g. sleep – objectives reviewed pre and post lesson. Programme is brand new so will see what worked and didn't work and programme will be altered as required.
 - Right now it's trial and error - teachers can teach the programme how they wish.



- BH stressed the need to look at the longitudinal picture. Recognition that the last 2 years have been very difficult and there is a need to close gaps. Academics are underpinned by pastoral activities. We are 2 years away from external results.

13. LK asked to see Pulse in future.

- SM commented that there was 2 years worth of rich data in Pulse and asked if this the same for Achieves.
- AoC explained that Achieves is different as it's created by her and is a series of units but all students have access to Pulse. BH commented that Pulse tracks Wellbeing and should hopefully be able to show the impact of Achieves.
- AoC commented that pupils have a book/record that they complete through Achieves - SM commented on digitalizing this in the future.
- Teju commented on the difficulties on quantifying MH and stressed the importance of qualitative data and valuable feedback.

DD and AoC left the meeting.

14. ZH went through the Principle's Report which was printed and available at the meeting. A soft copy to be emailed with the minutes.

- Student growth is now at capacity - ZH thanked BH and LMC for the tours
- Looking forward - Stay and Play Assessments for FS to Y1 and ongoing CAT 4 Assessments
- Tours on Tuesdays and Fridays; with BH doing bespoke tours when required for older year groups

Emiratis - 72 Emiratis across the school; many in leadership roles across the school including as Heritage Leaders. Looking to increase the number of Emiratis in leadership roles. ZH commented that SBS has a very active Emirati community especially around Flag Day and International Day.

Staffing - increased this year, with 2 main appointments - Ashraf Sharaf; Head of Arabic and Islamic Studies, and Tarana; School Counsellor.

ZH commented that TK is 'phenomenal' and has superseded expectations.

Extra-curricular activities – ZH explained that the full programme of ECAs was up and running, great to see all the things that we've missed.

Health and Safety – ZH stated that SBS passed the Civil Defence evacuation with flying colours. ZH explained that the DHA requirements have quadrupled in terms of health checks including dental screening. The Clinic Staff of 3 are very busy. SBS have had extra First Aid training and Lifeguarding Training, plus there is to be extra training for security and staff managing traffic.

SM asked if there had been any KHDA visits since masks were dropped.

ZH confirmed that there hadn't been.

Partnerships – ZH highlighted the several pages of partnerships detailed in the Board pack.

Facilities – ZH updated the Board that building work on 10 extra classrooms is to be completed in March 2023.

Whole School Parent Survey – ZH presented highlights from the survey:

- SBS has grown 64% in 2 years yet has not lost its core values – parents agree with this
- Communication channels – always feedback on this. One issue is that parent don't read the communication
- All updates are in the Board pack to be sent with minutes

ZH handed over to LMC who went through her report with particular focus on extra assessment points that have been introduced in Primary - Board members can click on soft copy of report to see trackers. Special thanks was given to James Crawford (New year 6 teacher) for his help creating the trackers. LMc highlighted that new subjects had been added to Learning Ladders and all baseline assessments had been completed. Parent Teacher Conferences took place face to face in school on 12th and 13th October. LMc to bring % turnout to the next meeting.

Next Steps – LM explained that these were Pupil Progress and Accountability across all levels.

BH out line the key priorities for Secondary – recognition that 50% of the staff are new, focus has been on welcoming them and embedding assessment processes. New students have joined with high CAT scores but low reading scores; these pupils are being supported by the SBS reading programme.

Full leadership model in place now – focus on accountability across all levels.

There has been a focus on ensuring that staff have access to background info on pupils.

One significant change is the drop of one of the assessment weeks for pupils in years 7 to 9.

ZH asked if there were any questions.

CD asked about the recruitment of staff and their induction programme. BHO explained that this begins in June when staff are given 'Secondary Essentials' document. Every department has existing members of staff in it alongside new staff members and there is ongoing support for next staff.

FS asked about Emiratis within the school.

ZH stated that there were 72 Emirati pupils within the school; which is significantly higher than other British Schools, she believes that this is due to the number of opportunities within the school and because parents feel part of the school community.

CD supported this by highlighting the pride and enjoyment that Emirati members of the school take in National Day and International Day activities.

ZH final comment was with regards to the recently awarded Quality Mark and expressed thanks to SM and CD. As a result of the self-review kit pulled together by Sarah Polley, Emma Ives and Christopher Costello, SBS was awarded top grade 'Gold Award' after an online assessment yesterday. ZH said that this is a great testament to everything that's being done at SBS.

There were no further questions or comments.

Notes:

Copies of the Principal's Report will be sent to members.

Next Board Meeting to be confirmed in Term 2.

Meeting Concluded: 6:30pm