



MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING

11 May 2022, 1.00 p.m.

Part A Public

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>Trustees present: (V = virtual attendance) Tom Briant-Evans (TBE) V item 7 onwards Karen Brokenshire (KB) Mike Hosking (MH) – Chair Nick Lake (NL) Keith Tipler (KT) John Whetter (JW)</p> <p><i>Also present:</i> Jem Alder (JA) – Trust Secretary Mike England (ME) – Finance Director Simon Hague (SE) – CEO Tamsin Lamb (TL) – Director of Education</p>	
1	Apologies: Nik Butcher (NB)	
2	Conflicts of Interest: no additional interests were declared.	
3	Previous minutes of the 22 March 2022 were accepted as an accurate record.	
4	Matters arising / Tracker	
4.1	Tracker 20.63 External funding. Still in progress – KT reported identified 3 potential sponsors.	
4.2	20.88 Member vacancy – MH reminded everyone to help identify potential candidates.	ALL
4.3	20.90 Update Trustees on community funding proposals. Agreed invite to a Finance Group meeting was best solution – JA liaise with ME over dates.	JA
5	Delegated Decisions: none.	
6	White Paper briefing	
6.1	<p>SH introduced his summary by commenting much of the content had been mooted in advance – nothing was unexpected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academies push – a date for the first time and an indication of preferred size. Seems a long time away but unlike Cornwall still a significant % of maintained schools in some parts of the country. Anticipate a ‘merge and consolidate’ phase locally - feel RSC is removing choice over which MATs to join. Direct national funding formula. Attendance – something government can measure and appear to be strong on? Seems to follow-on from measures introduced during the pandemic. Home schooling duty for LAs – greater supervision / scrutiny. Greater powers for Ofsted. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher misconduct – feel these last two make good headlines but will have minor impact 	
6.2	<p><i>Q: Proposal to consider changing length of school day – how exactly is that calculated?</i> Not clear whether it is just teaching time or adds in afterschool clubs etc... Educators know there is a limit to how much intense teaching / learning can take place in a day.</p> <p><i>Q: What about reference to more tutoring?</i> TL confirmed that schools are actively using this approach but many of their plans had been heavily impacted by Covid and staff absences – requiring tutors to be used differently.</p>	
7	School Performance update	
7.1	<p>School summary report. TL explained the categories used together with the intervention codes (<i>explained fully in SI strategy – item 7.3 below</i>).</p> <p>Trustees confirmed they found the new format very clear and helpful – noting this continued a trend of increasingly effective whole trust reporting to support benchmarking.</p> <p>They acknowledged this would become even more effective once national data became available again.</p> <p>Trustees agreed to the proposal this is produced for them every term.</p>	
7.2	<p>Recruitment update. Trustees welcomed the approach taken to fill the vacancy at Rosemellin – acknowledging the new Head would be able to immediately transfer existing Crofty experience and practice. TL updated Trustees with progress on covering Weeth.</p> <p>SH confirmed that nationally there is an issue with Headteacher recruitment. The Trust has chosen to focus on recruiting high quality deputy heads who can then be mentored over time into a Headship role.</p> <p>Trustees also welcomed the news that as part of the switch to community funding the Trust had both created the budget to add a dedicated Speech & Language specialist to the establishment – and had successfully recruited a very experienced practitioner who would be in post from next month.</p> <p>TL confirmed that this appointment should make a significant impact on provision across the Trust.</p>	
7.3	<p>Trust School Improvement Strategy. Trustees thanked TL and colleagues for preparing and sharing this – they commented it was very clear and ‘impressive’. They also welcomed the detailed description of how SILC worked and the different types of visits involved.</p> <p>SH added it had benefited from the time leaders had spent working with other schools and trusts – and had been designed from the start to be scalable as the Trust expanded. He highlighted it reflects the Trust’s culture and values – and is both evidence based and behaviour driven.</p>	
8	External scrutiny	
8.1	Confidential item	

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8.2	<p>MAT Review.</p> <p>SH summarised the background to this review and how it was completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust asked the RSC for help in identifying partner to complete this for us • Wimborne Trust are a larger all-through MAT and respected by the RSC • Methodology was to use national MAT Assurance Framework which is designed as a self-assessment tool • TL completed bulk of gathering evidence – much reflects our journey over several years of our development <p>SH shared his view that their school improvement lead understood us and was able to triangulate everything we had told him – as included in their report. He considered the summary to be a very fair narrative.</p>	
8.3	<p>Trustees thanked SH and TL for their work in initiating and compiling the evidence for this – and on the outcome which they considered an excellent achievement.</p> <p>They noted how well the report worked for both intended audiences – the Trust and the RSC.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to the reviewers with our thanks for acknowledging our position and completing this in good time.</p> <p>Agreed this needed to be shared with Heads and Chairs.</p>	SH/MH
9	Confidential item	
10	Finance	
10.1	<p>Budget monitoring.</p> <p>ME provided a brief verbal summary and it was agreed a more detailed update would be added to agenda for 24/5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlook still strong – still predict a surplus • Decisions still to be made how best to use supplementary funding <p>Q: <i>Has interest rate increase been accounted for yet?</i></p> <p>Not yet.</p>	
10.2	<p>Budget 2022.23 work well underway. ME anticipated bringing a draft budget to June Board meeting with final approval at July meeting.</p> <p>Trustees noted budget plans may need updating in light of potential growth of the Trust.</p>	
11	LGC Chairs Notes from 5 April 2022	
11.1	<p>Trustees received notes from this meeting.</p> <p>MH and NL gave brief feedback from May meeting (notes to follow).</p>	
12	Parent Code of Conduct Policy	
12.1	<p>SH confirmed this policy had been drafted in direct response to concerns raised by local governance and discussed at their May LGC Chairs' meeting.</p> <p>Crofty draft was based on a template provided by our legal advisers.</p>	
12.2	<p>Trustees thanked SH and colleagues for a rapid response to the original concern and approved the policy.</p>	JA

Item	Subject	Action
	Agreed this would be an agenda item at next LGC Chairs' meeting and would be noted in next termly summary report from LGCs.	
13	AOB	
13.1	KT reported updated H&S policy now in place.	
13.2	Cornwall Council have confirmed their current internal audit service which we use will cease at end of this term. Alternative offer will be discussed at next Audit Committee meeting.	
14	Items for next agenda	
14.1	Budget monitoring. Growth update / planning / risk assessment.	
	Dates of next meetings: 24 May Board – 1pm 25 May Finance group meeting 8 June School Improvement group 14 June Audit Committee 2pm 14 June LGC Chairs 5.30pm 24 June Members 28 June Board 19 July Board	
	Meeting finished at 3.45	