



MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING

27 June 2023, 11.00 a.m. at Tehidy Park Golf Club

Part A Public

Item	Subject	Action
	<p>Trustees present: Tom Briant-Evans (TBE) <i>item 4.2 onwards</i> Karen Brokenshire (KB) Robin Cowen (RC) Karen Harris (KH) Mike Hosking (MH) – Chair Nick Lake (NL) Peter Sheppard (PS) 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 <i>item 4.2 onwards</i> Sean Pinhay (SP) – Chief Finance and Operations Officer Vanessa Schreiber (VS) – Executive PA</p>	
1	Appointment of Chair	
1.1	MH was re-appointed as Chair for another year.	
1.2	Vice Chair to be appointed at July meeting.	JA
2	Apologies: none	
3	Minutes of the meeting of 16 May 2023 were accepted as an accurate record.	
4	Action Tracker / Matters arising	
4.1/.2	Confidential items	
4.3	Action Tracker: 30 Shared services pay report – in progress.	
4.4	38 Code of Conduct – in progress.	
5	Ofsted inspections	
5.1	<p>TL provided feedback on three recent Ofsted inspections. Rosemellin – RI. Very positive report and very unusually there was a good for leadership despite the RI assessment. Main reason not Good is there has not been enough time for the impact of improvements to the Quality of Education to be evidenced. Trustees noted that the Leadership judgement reflected not just the Headteacher but other school leaders, support of the Trust and local governance too. Q: <i>Can we request a follow-up visit in advance of Ofsted's own timescale for a return visit?</i></p>	

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	Yes in 12 months time we would consider this - although we may need to pay.	
5.2	Trannack – Good. TL reported this as a ‘really difficult inspection’ as assumptions were made about SEND provision and leadership had to work hard to convince the inspector to change their mind. TL acknowledged there is still work to do around systems and SENDCo training.	
5.3	Weeth – Good. We incorporated learning points from Trannack to better prepare SEND evidence. Behaviour and Attitudes unexpectedly became an issue on first day but we successfully provided additional evidence on the second day. The inspector was ‘shocked’ by the level of support the school had to provide for two pupils previously assessed as not suitable for mainstream provision – because the council have not found alternative provision. He reported his concerns direct to HMI. TL informed Trustees this issue is common to all our schools – and a recent area wide inspection of council provision highlighted the inconsistencies in provision between Early Years and post-16. This is being addressed by the council recruiting more specialist staff.	
5.4	SH and TL shared their views on what we had learnt from these inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution in their approach – understand trust governance much better • Shift in culture of the inspectors – all 7 were open to dialogue and asked for evidence to change their initial thoughts • All inspections asked to see full Trust minutes • Retain our concerns about their process and the detrimental impact on staff mental health during inspections • Process still does not support us to improve Trustees fed back that both staff and local governors had acknowledged the support from the trust and in particular from TL. SH acknowledged that TL’s involvement allows us to take learning from one inspection to the next – but taking half a week out of her wider responsibilities is far from ideal.	
5.5	Confidential item	
6	External Review of Governance	
6.1	Trustees received the full report and recommendations from the recent review.	
6.2	Governance Action plan. Trustees received an updated draft action plan. MH pointed out the strategy discussion may identify further priorities to be considered. The need to decide how to plan and monitor delivery was raised and discussed.	JA/MH
7	Finance	
7.1	FAR Committee 6 June 2023. NL summarised the items covered at the recent meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety / compliance update • Budget monitoring • Procurement update • Future investment decisions and reporting arrangements 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First report from new internal audit provider – covering recruitment and selection procedures • Reviewed and amended draft Terms of Reference <p>Outstanding actions from previous Audit & Risk committee were reviewed and have been transferred to the new committee.</p> <p>Trustees noted the internal audit report had identified various issues – mainly to do with record keeping and use of the EduPay system – and that the trust had an action plan in place to address these issues.</p>	
7.2	<p>Office accommodation update.</p> <p>SP reported that officers had visited another potential site – part of the new build at Pool Innovation Centre – which offers the size we are seeking and a flexible space.</p> <p>Negotiations on cost will continue for this site and with our current landlord. Decision will be deferred until 2023.24 budget set and approved.</p>	
7.3	<p>Funding update.</p> <p>SP reported the Trust has received £425K mainstream schools additional grant – not in the original budget so will reduce projected overspend. Covers April to August with a second tranche to follow.</p> <p><i>Q: Is this a permanent addition to our funding?</i></p> <p>Not currently known – based on previous scenarios probably going to be incorporated into future core funding.</p>	
7.4	<p>Urgent Procurement request – Cleaning tender.</p> <p>SP requested authorisation by the Board to award a new cleaning contract – following completion of tendering process yesterday. Financial scheme of delegation requires governance approval due to total value of the contract.</p> <p>Full details of the procurement process and final scoring will be issued to next FAR committee.</p> <p>Value is slightly above amount budgeted but this was expected. Trust has option to add two more schools to the contract in the future.</p> <p>Trustees confirmed their approval.</p>	
8	Members meeting 16 June 2023	
8.1	<p>Trustees received the draft minutes of their recent meeting – noting their thanks for Ian Bruce’s long involvement with the Trust and its schools.</p> <p>MH confirmed two potential new Members attended the meeting and confirmed their interest in joining the Trust.</p>	
	Meeting finished at 12.24	
	<p>Dates of next meetings:</p> <p>3/7 SIG Committee</p> <p>4/7 FAR Committee / LGC Chairs</p> <p>18/7 Board</p>	