




ACES ACADEMIES TRUST

Minutes of the MAT Meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 5.15 pm
Community Meeting Room, Hinchingsbrooke School

Present: Chair: Brian Message (BM)
 CEO: Andrew Goulding (AEG)
 Directors: Paul Fenney (PF), Gary Weston (GW), Cliff Fluet (CF)
 Members: Bev Curtis (BJC), Charles Glanville (CG)
 In attendance: Hannah Connor-James (HC-J), Headteacher – Cromwell Academy
 Dudley Hughes, Chair - NET
 Mike Busby, Vice Chair - NET
 Debbie Warner – Minutes
 Apologies: Dave McMillan (DRM), Finance Director

1. Presentation on the Primary Curriculum (HC-J)
Hannah Connor-James gave a presentation on the primary curriculum of Cromwell Academy. A presentation pack was also circulated to Directors.
2. Welcome (BM)
The Chair welcomed Dudley and Mike from NET and thanked them for attending the meeting and introductions were made by the ACES Trust Board.
3. Minutes of meeting of 01/04/19
The minutes of the last meeting were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and were signed off by the Chair.
4. Matters arising (BM)
Training on Primary School Education – completed Work experience placements to be considered – AEG confirmed this is in the SDP for next year SEND update to Board – completed Effectiveness of Trust Board – BM, CG and CF have started work on this in preparation for the next Board meeting
5. Finance report (PF)
<p>5.1 Current year update: PF updated Directors confirming the outlook was looking good being c.£250,000 better than budget due to MDIF. The budget assumed a conservative view of funding teachers’ pay award and this was better than anticipated.</p> <p>Q: At the end of this year, is the £1m in reserve outside of the sinking fund? A: Yes, astro turf funding has already been accounted for</p> <p>5.2 2019/20 Budget: PF referred to the budget pack which had been circulated to Directors ahead of the meeting. The budget had also been reviewed by the Finance Committee on 14/06/19. Assumptions need to be agreed by the Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding remains the same and a 2% teachers’ pay award with 1% funded by the government. • Increase in pupils at Cromwell to 20 next year. • Hinchingsbrooke pupil numbers stay the same pre 16 and post 16 another 20 students in 2021. <p>PF updated Directors on the 3 year data which shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1: in-year surplus in both Cromwell and Hinchingsbrooke. • Year 2: retain in-year surplus in Cromwell but go into deficit in Hinchingsbrooke. • Year 3 both schools are in deficit but still have £500,000 in reserves. <p>PF advised that he and DRM have done some benchmarking and indications are funding costs are lower than average both at Cromwell and Hinchingsbrooke. Energy costs are slightly higher, likely to be due to the nature of</p>

Signed 
 Date 17.09.19

	<p>the site. PF advised that teacher costs seem to be slightly above the average and there may be a need for the Directors to look at efficiency planning in September.</p> <p>Directors confirmed they were happy to approve the 2019/20 budget.</p>
6.	CEO report (AEG)
	<p><u>Cromwell Academy:</u> AEG congratulated HC-J on extremely positive KS2 SATs results. HC-J added that she is very pleased and are much improved from last year. She added there was still some progress to be made on reading and a couple of results are being appealed.</p> <p>Q: Are you likely to clear the below average in terms of progress in writing? A: Progress measure is now in line with the school's confidence band.</p> <p><u>Hinchingbrooke School:</u> AEG advised that his report contains information on the pilot inspection, final outcome of the recent restructure. Currently recruiting for a Director of Creativity which is a leadership position and whole school role. The SDP is finalised and has been presented to the Local Governing Body who were happy to accept it.</p> <p><u>ACES:</u> AEG discussed CEO work streams: Plans to increase the size of sixth form to be able to accommodate 450 students. Business plan to run a bus for out of area sixth form students from September 2020. Chartwells contract expires in a couple of years' time: look at possibility of lettings being managed in house. Church bookings to be accommodated at Cromwell Academy. Plans being developed for pre-school at Cromwell. Due diligence has been carried out at another school on behalf of another MAT. ACES Estates Management team have been employed on a 5-year contract to manage the site maintenance of another 3 local schools on behalf of another MAT. Income generation discussion followed. MAT expansion discussion followed.</p>
7.	ACES Directors & Members (BM)
	<p>BM advised the board with unfortunately Natalie Benton has resigned as Director due to taking up a new role in London. It was decided not to actively seek a replacement for the time being.</p>
8.	Cleaning contract (GW)
	<p>A statement was circulated by GW regarding the cleaning contract tenders which recommends that the new contact be placed with Cleantec. Directors were in agreement.</p>
9.	AOB
	<p>Anything to report on the new Hinchingbrooke Principal? AEG advised that Mark Patterson has recently been in for a full day and there was a very positive feel from the staff. There are further plans for him to come in in the Autumn term.</p>
9.	Date of next meetings
	<p>Trust Board: Tuesday 17th September, 5.15pm (PF unable to attend, CF to dial in) Thursday 12th December, 5.15 pm</p>

Meeting finished at 7pm.