




## Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Wednesday 4 May 2022, 5.15 pm, via Zoom

Present: Brian Message (BM), Chair and Trustee  
 Gary Weston (GW), Trustee  
 Rebecca Ryan (RR), Trustee  
 Jeffrey Matemba (JM), Trustee  
 James Nicholson (JN), Trustee  
 Chris Meddle (CM), Trustee  
 Raj Joshi (RJ), Trustee

In attendance: Andrew Goulding (AEG), CEO  
 David McMillan (DRM), Finance Director  
 Debbie Warner, Clerk

1.	Apologies
	Apologies were received and accepted from Dan Lewis.
2.	Declaration of interests
	Rebecca Ryan: Solicitor for EPM.
3.	Minutes of meeting 08/02/2022
	The minutes of the last meeting were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and were signed off by the Chair.
4.	CEO's Report
	<p>The CEO's report was received and read by Trustees prior to the meeting. The CEO updated Trustees with key points contained in his report.</p> <p>The CEO was pleased to report that discussions between the Bedford Trust continues to go well. The CEO informed Trustees that the next steps will be to use the summer term to get to know each other with peer review meetings planned for the primary schools. The CEO will visit the primary schools in the Bedford Trust tomorrow. Due diligence is anticipated in the autumn term. In planning for a merger with the Trust, the CEO did not think there would be any issues on the educational side of things and their finances are also in a good position. If and when the merger happens, the CEO informed Trustees that the one Trust would consist of 2 secondary and 7 primary schools. There will also be a need to decide on a new name for the Trust as all parties feel this would be the most pragmatic course of action. The Chair said that at the point when they merge, he will hand over their Chair of Trustees and the CEO will volunteer for redundancy.</p> <p>The CEO said he was sad to be losing his Director of Primary of Education and a replacement is being sought. He added that it has been necessary to split the roles and make 2 appointments to ensure there is good leadership in both primary and SEND areas.</p> <p>The CEO advised Trustees that a decision will need to be made on who wants to join the new board and who would like to take the opportunity to step down. The CEO briefed Trustees on the current composition of Trustees and members in the Bedford Trust ACES and there is likely to be some realignment necessary but their Chair acknowledges that this will likely change when the merger happens.</p> <p>A confidential discussion followed regarding growth in the Trust.</p> <p>The CEO thanked Bev Curtis for his service to the Trust. Implementation of Arbor has gone well.</p> <p>Briefly, the Finance Director said that the budget and forecast was looking healthy and he is currently liaising with Headteachers on the spending of catch up funding.</p>

Signed:   
 Date: 19/07/2022

	<p>The CEO was conscious that 2 appointments he proposes to make in the Central Team will increase the top slice. The Finance Director said that it would not be appropriate for Hinchingsbrooke School to fund the appointment of a Director of Primary and Director of SEND as this will only benefit the primary schools.</p> <p>The CEO referred to an article on academisation which was contained in his report.</p> <p><b>Challenge/questioning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personnel overlap: If we merge, will we end up with 2 Director of SEND and Primary Standards</li> <li>- No, they don't have these roles at the proposed trust</li> <li>- A trustee referred to content contained in the report on the primary schools which indicated that some students' projections on examinations have gone back in the spring term</li> <li>- The CEO put this up for debate at the last Standards &amp; Innovations meeting and will be discussed further at the next meeting</li> </ul> <p>SPS projected intake is extremely small which is a concern. We are still waiting for a decision about the special needs facility at SPS</p> <p>Recent governance audit has made recommendations which is contained in the report.</p>
5.	To approve SENDA Policy
	Trustees approved the policy.
6.	AOB
	There was none.
7.	Date of next meeting
	19/07/2022

Meeting finished at 7pm