



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022, 5.15 pm, via Zoom

Present: Chris Meddle (CM), Trustee (Vice Chair)
 Gary Weston (GW), Trustee
 Rebecca Ryan (RR), Trustee
 Jeffrey Matemba (JM), Trustee
 James Nicholson (JN), Trustee
 Dan Lewis (DL), Trustee

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

1.	Apologies
	Apologies were received and accepted from Brian Message and Raj Joshi. Chris Meddle (Vice Chair) to Chair the meeting.
2.	Declaration of interests
	Rebecca Ryan: Solicitor for EPM
3.	Minutes of meeting 14/05/2022
	The Chair referred to the questioning from Trustees regarding concerns over the low projected intake at one of the primary schools, SPS, and the CEO confirmed that this is still the case. The minutes of the last meeting were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and were signed off by the Vice Chair.
4.	CEO's Report
	Trustees received the report prior to the meeting and the CEO highlighted key points contained in his report: The CEO referred to national issues in education. The CEO was pleased to report that Covid related issues appear to be coming to an end across the schools. Exams are returning to normality with a few minor mitigations. The CEO has seen all the Headteachers prior to this meeting and was of the opinion that they have all coped exceptionally well this academic year. He referred to the good results at Cromwell Academy with 40% of students working at greater depth and GBA where a focus on writing has been effective. The CEO referred to the appointment of Simon Eardley, Director of Primary Standards, which will be of great benefit to the MAT. Since writing his report, the CEO shared with Trustees that the special needs unit at Spaldwick is highly likely to get the go ahead. A Staff Disciplinary meeting had taken place with at HBK. An update was received on partnership discussions and a memorandum to understanding will be signed in due course. A confidential discussion took place regarding developments between ACES and another Trust. Challenge/questioning: Trustees felt that a newly merged MAT should be formed at the start of the academic year rather than at Easter. Trustees were pleased to note the improvements in results at the primary school that previously showed concern. The Chair referred to the full Trustees and committee dates for the year 2022/23 which had been circulated by the Clerk and asked that Trustees inform the Clerk as soon as possible if any of the dates were inconvenient. The Chair thanked the CEO and the Headteachers for the information contained in the CEO report.

Signed:

Date: 18/10/2022

5.	AOB
	<p>One of Trustees felt there had been a lot of focus on the primary schools but would like to have a focus on Sixth Form at Hinchingsbrooke, which could be carried out either by the Standards & Innovations Committee or at Local Governing level. Another Trustee suggested that it is an opportunity to rebrand the Sixth Form and define what sort of Sixth Form provision we should be offering in order to make significant improvements. The CEO said there had previously been a major focus of Sixth Form to scrutinise what courses are offered: whether it should be academic, focusing on students leading to university pathways or offer more vocational courses. A Trustee thought there was a need to look at how the Sixth Form is marketed and that it has relied on reputation but struggles to see what sort of Sixth Form it is.</p> <p>ACTION: CEO TO INFORM THE PRINCIPAL OF HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL THAT A SIXTH FORM REVIEW WILL BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE S&I COMMITTEE</p> <p>ACTION: CEO TO INVITE VKR AND MJP TO MEETING ON 13/12/2022</p> <p>Dan Lewis informed Trustees of his intention to resign due to work commitments. The CEO thanked Dan for his excellent work while on the Board and his excellent educational experience has been of great benefit to the Board.</p> <p>Finance update: The Finance Director informed the Board that the in-year position made a substantial surplus which will be reinvested in various projects across the school. Additional funding will move forward. Update on teacher pay award: the government has announced pay award and minimum pay award is 5% unfunded and this will affect next year's budget. The model approved by the finance committee will be submitted to DfE this week. He was satisfied that the reserves will cover pay awards. Budget is based on assumption that ACES continues as it is and does not assume a merger. Pupil numbers in 2023/24 are expected to breach 3000 pupils, giving access to additional capital funding. The Finance Committee approved £200,000 to schools across the Trust to make some improvements which he confirmed was affordable within reserves.</p> <p>ACTION: FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CIRCULATE REVISED FORECAST TO TRUSTEES</p>
7.	Date of Next Meeting
	18/10/2022

Meeting finished at 7pm