

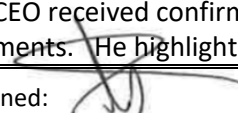


Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022, 5.15 pm, via Zoom

Present: Brian Message (BM), Chair of Trustees
Gary Weston (GW), Trustee
Rebecca Ryan (RR), Trustee
Jefrey Matemba (JM), Trustee
James Nicholson (JN), Trustee

In attendance: Andrew Goulding (AEG), CEO
David McMillan (DRM), Finance Director
Antonia Drysdale (AD), Director of SEND
Simon Eardley (SE), Director of Primary Standards
Debbie Warner, Clerk

1.	Apologies
	Apologies were received and accepted from Chris Meddle and Raj Joshi.
2.	Declaration of interests
	Rebecca Ryan: Solicitor for EPM
3.	Elections/Resignations
	No nominations were received prior to the meeting. Brian Message confirmed his willingness to continue as Chair for a further academic year. Jefrey Matemba informed the board of his intention to step down as a Trustee and this would be his last meeting.
4.	Confirmation of re-election of LGC Chairs
	The CEO confirmed that the Chairs of the Local Governing Committees had been either elected or re-elected. A new Chair for Cromwell Academy, Rebecca Berton, had been elected after Richard Laing stepped down at their last meeting. The CEO thanked Richard Laing for his significant contributions to the LGC during his time as Chair.
3.	Minutes of meeting 19/07/2022
	The minutes of the meeting were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and were signed off by the Chair.
4.	Introduction to ACES new members of staff
	The CEO invited Antonia Drysdale, Director of SEND and Inclusion and Simon Eardley, Director of Primary to introduce themselves to the board: Antonia has been a Headteacher since 2010 with experience in special and primary schools. Since joining ACES she has been developing the structure that is in place to provide a seamless transition to the primary schools. Currently, she is familiarizing herself with the SEND landscape and getting to know ACES structures and processes. She is focusing on the professional relationships across the schools. Antonia has been involved in the recent appointment of a new Assistant Principal Level SENDCo at Hinchingsbrooke School. She has also set up a SENDCo professional group for better working practice for managing information and develop a group of specialists. Simon has experience of working in schools in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and has been a Headteacher of a 2-form entry primary school. He also has experience of setting up a Trust and also works as an Ofsted Inspector. He has been spending some time getting to know the primary schools in the Trust. Simon has been working closely with GCA for Ofsted readiness and learning environments. He has been supporting the Headteacher at SPS due to concerns around capacity of leaders and looking at introducing a preschool provision. He has also been working on a communications strategy; a Trust Twitter and Twitter accounts for the primary schools have been set up, He has also visited primary schools outside the Trust. <i>AD and SE left the meeting at this point.</i>
4.	CEO's Report
	The CEO received confirmation that Trustees had read the CEO's report prior to the meeting and invited comments. He highlighted the partnership working section in the report and the reports that have been

Signed: 
Date: 06/12/2022

	<p>submitted by Headteachers of schools in the Trust.</p> <p>Questioning/challenge:</p> <p>A Trustee noted that the maintenance to the field at GBA is still ongoing and asked when the issue will be resolved.</p> <p>The Finance Director acknowledged that work has stopped in this area due to the ground still being too hard.</p> <p>A Trustee noted that GCA is working with a school in Oldham; is this a case of the school going in a different direction to the other schools?</p> <p>The CEO is aware of the work they are doing with the school but it is not stopping them participating with the Trust and is not unduly concerned.</p> <p>A Trustee asked for an update on the SEND support at Hinchingsbrooke School.</p> <p>The CEO provided Trustees with a recruitment update on SEND: An Assistant Principal level SENDCo has been appointed and will start in January. Additionally, a SENDCo has also been appointed and is currently providing support to Cromwell Academy until the end of the year before joining Hinchingsbrooke School in January 2023.</p>
5.	Finance Update
	<p>The Finance Director highlighted the key points from his finance report:</p> <p>Transfer from SPS provided the Trust with £87,000.</p> <p>By the end of this year, forecast reserves should be in the region of £1.8m.</p> <p>Support staff pay awards equate to 5% and are backdated to April 2022 which results in an in year hit of £165,000.</p> <p>The Finance Director confirmed that £244,000 has been spend out of reserves.</p> <p>£35,000 has been spent on the sports courts at GCA.</p> <p>In July, agreed budget included assumptions that the teaching pay award would be in the region of between 3-10% and sports staff pay award would be a similar amount. Before this, an in-year surplus of c. £99,000 was anticipated having added in all the pay awards and Harpur Brazal holiday pay calculations.</p> <p>In order to reduce the Central Team deficit, it is necessary to increase the top slice.</p> <p>It was agreed to add some money in to SPS to balance the in-year deficit.</p> <p>Each school in the Trust has been asked for impact statements for cost savings.</p> <p>Currently, the Trust is sitting at £1.4m forecast of end of year reserves.</p> <p>Given the political climate, the Finance Director thought it unlikely that the Trust will receive additional funding and there is a risk teachers pay awards, which has gone to ballot, will be significant.</p> <p>Careful management has meant that the Trust has been able to retain a reasonable level of reserves.</p> <p>Looking at Sixth Form numbers at Hinchingsbrooke School, there is a growing requirement for places due to new housing and this is likely to be result in accepting in the region of 35 students each year.</p> <p>The future of SPS is likely to be more secure once the SEND unit has been guaranteed by the Local Authority.</p> <p>GBA will is nearing a requirement to move to 2 forms of entry.</p> <p>Model classrooms at Hinchingsbrooke School are going well, supported by their IT Team.</p> <p>Confidential comment regarding central IT support.</p> <p>Trust will be in surplus year on year for the next 3 years.</p> <p>Trustees recommended that they take the proposed merger into consideration and once the due diligence is completed, there will be a better idea of the overall financial position.</p> <p>The Finance Director informed Trustees that the increase in utilities will be of significant impact.</p>
7.	AOB
	<p>The CEO thanked Jeffrey Matemba for his considerable contribution to the Board of Trustees and wished him well for the future.</p>

Meeting finished at 7pm