



NINESTILES
ACADEMY TRUST

MEETING	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DATE	Tuesday 07 February 2017
VENUE	Ninestiles School
ATTENDEES	Paul Ashdown, Ateef Azam, Richard Beamish, Abid Butt, Ian Carnell, Martyn Collin, Karen Crowston, Adrian Davies, Bob Fear, Gaetano Ferrante, Karamat Iqbal, Penny Wagg, David Werry
IN ATTENDANCE	Hilary Barber, Steven Ralph, Steve Smith

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Bob welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Sir Dexter Hutt, Chris Stevens, Terry Smith, Vrigu Dey and Nadeen Proverbs.

2. Register of Business Interests and Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None were declared.

3. Chair's Actions

a. Appointment of CEO

Bob reported that Catherine Anwar, currently a senior HMI working in London, has been appointed as CEO and will take up post on 01 May 2017. Bob has invited trustees to meet with Catherine at Ninestiles on 14 February 2017 at 8.30 am. Catherine will meet Principals at their scheduled meeting after the Trustees' meeting. Catherine will also be attending the Senior Leadership weekend on 03 March 2017 and the RSC visit on 10 March 2017.

4. CEO report

a. Trust Improvement Plan update

Martyn highlighted the following:

- The connection between the Board and the Standards meetings where the schools are held to account for their data
- Kevin Massey, external assessor has met with each of the Principals about current outcomes and projections.

Discussion followed about the challenges of the current data in both the local and national context.

- The KS3 curriculum project for developing joint practice across the trust is progressing well.
- Martyn circulated information about the EEF project being led by Carole Phillips who is currently working at Cockshut Hill.
- Peer to peer reviews. Martyn reported that he is commissioning a leader of a MAT based in Cambridge to undertake a Peer to Peer review during March using the DfE's new framework.

b. External reviews

- Attendance

Feedback has been received following the external trust review. A trust-wide policy has been written and will be discussed by the reviewer, Linda Rundle and the Attendance school leads tomorrow. The policy will be brought for approval to the next Board meeting. The attendance and exclusions data for individual schools will be analysed at the Standards meetings.

R.A. 2/5/17

Action:

- **Revisit the Attendance review when plans have been put in place to ensure that all recommendations are enacted.**
- **Submit Trust Attendance Policy to the Board for approval at next meeting**

Martyn reported that Linda Ruddle has already raised concerns with the City Council and the DfE about:

- the process of treating religious observance
- the inability to take pupils off role when they are known to have left the school
- the Spotlight process which Birmingham City Council have now agreed to revisit

- IT

The report circulated recommends some major challenges and has financial implications.

Action: Trustees are invited to raise any issues they would like Karen to address at the review meeting on Friday 10 February.

Martyn noted that there are two internal candidates for a post of Trust IT Manager who would be responsible for operations and systems management. Interviews and an appointment have been put on hold pending the outcome of the review.

c. Sixth Form College merger

Martyn reported that the formal consultation started on 6 February 2017 and will conclude on 21 March 2017. At their meeting on the 08 March the Joint Governance Group will finalise the membership of the Members and the Board of Trustees.

Action: Hilary to send out to all Trustees the link to the consultation website.

d. RSC bid

Martyn reported that two bids have been submitted with the following foci:

- MAT growth around support for internal capacity (ICT/Data/HR/Finance etc). A decision is expected at the end of March 2017.
- A new Hub to join the Trust. A decision is expected at the end of the summer term or early autumn.

e. Estates strategy

Steve S presented the proposed strategy for expenditure, approved by Principals, of two years of CIF funding. He explained that further details are being compiled for years 3-5 of the maintenance plan which will need to be reviewed each year.

Steve S explained that the priorities of the work had been identified based on the areas of greatest need detailed in the Conditions Surveys carried out at each school. He confirmed that tenders will be drawn up both across schools and across jobs to ensure the greatest economies of scale.

Ateef requested an update on discussions held before Christmas with Solihull MBC about a possible relocation to the Lyndon site of a primary school and the building of a new block for Lyndon. Bob and Martyn explained that the capital sum requested by Solihull MBC was unaffordable and Solihull had not offered further negotiations.

Paul suggested that whilst the plan submitted was very effective to manage maintenance, the Board should, in the future investigate more radical options and partnerships to ensure the best possible facilities and resources for all trust students. He suggested this would positively influence parental choice.

Trustees approved the CIF expenditure plan circulated.

Proposed: **Paul Ashdown**
Seconded: **Karen Crowston**

Action: Martyn, Gaetano and Steve to put together proposals to investigate the possibility of using external consultants to explore building options.

5. Finance

Approval of interim cleaning contract for Lyndon School pending a full tender process

Steve S explained the arrangement for interim cleaning provision at Lyndon pending a full tender process being carried out for the three year contract.

Paul emphasised the opportunities for centralised procurement that the merger with the Sixth Form College would bring and Steve confirmed that he was working towards harmonising contract dates where possible.

6. Risk Register

The updated Risk Register was approved. It will be reviewed at each meeting notated to show any categories that have altered since the previous meeting.

Proposed: **Penny Wagg**
Seconded: **Richard Beamish**

7. Reports from

Primary and Secondary Standards committees Remuneration committee

These were received.

8. Feedback from Academy Councils (AC chairs to lead)

Richard Beamish (Cockshut Hill) reported on a very productive meeting despite the constraints of time dictated by the PFI regulations.

David Werry (Pegasus) noted that current standards were not as good as had been predicted. He noted however the immediate positive impact of the new Principal. David also expressed concern about the IT strategy and the current lack of resources at Pegasus.

Ateef Azam (Lyndon) noted there was no feedback.

Ian Carnell (Yarnfield). Ian, on behalf of the non-staff councillors at Yarnfield, expressed his concern about the new governance structure which joins Yarnfield and The Oaklands as a "hub".

9. Policies (updated for approval)

Data Protection policy

The policy was approved unanimously.

Proposed: **Ian Carnell**
Seconded: **Penny Wagg**

Health and Safety policy

The policy was approved unanimously.

Proposed: **Richard Beamish**
Seconded: **Penny Wagg**

10. Matters arising from meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2016

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: **Ateef Azam**
Seconded: **David Werry**

11. Any other business

A report showing the ethnicity of Trust staff was circulated. This will be updated and reviewed on a regular basis.

