



**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF ACADEMY TRUST  
MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 7 December 2016**  
**at 8.20 pm**



**Venue: College LAIC**

Chairman: Mrs J Binder

Trustees present: Mr J Everard  
Mr P Nagle  
Mr C Purdy  
Mrs D Thomas  
Mr C Wakefield

Clerk: Mrs T Weavers

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*The group was quorate for the purposes of resolutions*

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**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no new declarations of business interests and no Trustee recorded any conflict of interest with the items on the agenda or the receipt or giving of any gifts or hospitality since the last meeting.

**3. Review and approval of the previous minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2016 were **approved** and signed as a true record

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**5. 2015/16 Annual Report and Accounts**

It was noted that the Report and Accounts had been scrutinised by the Audit Committee and there were no issues to report. The Trustees' Report had made mention of the significant cost saving exercise which had reduced the staffing costs by almost £1m. Trustees congratulated the Principal and his team on this initiative which had seen no involuntary redundancies. They also commented that the Report was a good summary of the year and had captured its many challenges.

It was, therefore, **proposed** (by Mr Nagle; seconded by Mr Purdy) that the 2015/16 Annual Report and Accounts should be approved and signed by the Chair and the Principal; **approved**.

Trustees were then given a brief update on the position with regard to the pension deficit and the anticipated increase in the coming years. **In response to a question as to what would happen if an academy were to go into a deficit situation**, Trustees were informed that this could lead to the Education Funding Agency issuing a notice to improvement financial management (FNI)

which might mean that all delegated authorities would be revoked and reverted to the EFA until such time as the terms in the FNtI had been complied with; a further sanction could be that the single academy was made to join an existing MAT.

## **6. Board Membership**

It was noted that Mr Purdy and Mrs McKinnell's terms of office would be ending in March 2017; they were both prepared to be reappointed.

## **7. Monitoring Links**

Mrs Barbrook gave a brief update on personal development, behaviour and welfare; the following was highlighted from the record of a meeting which had been previously circulated:-

- Attendance of disadvantaged students had improved by 1.5% which was moving in the right direction
- Rewards were being effective in improving attendance
- Late buses continued to be issue as they had a major impact on attendance and learning; however, there was little that could be done as the academy had no authority over the bus company(s) as they were not contracted by The Plume and thus could not be held to account
- The Behaviour Policy had been revised again
- Mrs Ollett had been appointed as the Stonewall Champion
- The Board needed to identify a Child Protection Link; Mrs Binder was prepared to continue in the short term and Mrs Barbrook could potentially take it on at a later stage but not at this point in time
- Yr7 attendance had improved; the Settling In Survey had produced some very positive results

Mrs Binder then gave a short update on SEND:-

- She had seen evidence of an overall change; the right structures and procedures were now in place and progress could be evidenced
- There was now specific training for TAs with strategies for individual staff in the classroom; students had access to classroom support, individual support and 1:1 tuition
- She had seen that motivation was good, there was an attitude of raising aspirations and a vibrant atmosphere
- Staff knew what strategies to put in place but it would probably be 2018 until the gaps were closed between disadvantaged and advantaged children
- There were still a number of students on SA+; they should have had EHCPs in place by now – this was being addressed and further funding was being sourced

## **8. Strategic Update**

Due to the lateness of the meeting, it was **agreed** that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Mr Purdy announced that he was not able to commit to the date of the next meeting and it was, therefore, changed to **Tuesday, 28 March 2017 with the Board of Trustees meeting first at 6pm followed by the Academy Trust meeting at 7pm.** At this revised meeting the reappointments of Mr Purdy and Mrs McKinnell would be considered as well as further thought on the plan to attract more Trustees.

**10. Any other business**

Trustees were informed that there had been a Staff Disciplinary Hearing that day; no decision had yet been made.

Volunteers were then asked for staff pay appeal hearing on 16 December. Mrs Thomas and Mrs Binder put themselves forward as long as it could be held at 10am; a further Trustee would be required.

*Meeting closed at 8.55*