

LUNESDALE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 28 February 2017 at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy

Present: Prof J Crewdson, Mrs E Nicholls, Mr P Ballard, Mrs N Gomersall, Revd M Gisbourne, Mr R Webb

In Attendance: Mr A McKinnell (Director of Business & Finance), Mrs J Garnett (Vice-chair of Governors RST), Mrs J Rees (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs D Cheetham and Cllr Mrs V Wilson

Rev Canon Ballard opened the meeting with prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS

Prof Crewdson welcomed and introduced Mr Robert Webb to those present.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 September 2016, having been circulated, be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Revd M Gisbourne be recorded as present at the meeting

2. MATTERS ARISING

- Item 2 – the application to the sponsor capacity fund had been unsuccessful because our MAT hadn't been established. An application to the Regional Academy Growth Fund for £100k was submitted to the DfE in January. We should hear the outcome by 31 March.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Directors' attention was drawn to paras 45 to 49 of the Articles of Association. The 7 Directors of the MAT are:

Prof J Crewdson
Rev Canon P Ballard
Mrs D Cheetham
Revd M Gisbourne
Mrs N Gomersall
Mr R Webb
Cllr Mrs V Wilson

Mrs E Nicholls is also on the Board as CEO.

We are able to co-opt up to 6 directors. There are no co-opted directors at the moment, but it was agreed to start discussions with Mrs Jane Watson (who has a great deal of commercial experience and school governance experience) with a view to co-opting her.

Others may be invited to attend meetings, but do not have voting rights.

It was noted that the Directors are required to complete a Register of Business interests and forms were distributed to those for whom we do not currently hold details. These should be returned to the Clerk on completion.

ACTION

Clerk

4. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Articles of Association had been circulated. These are based on the Academy Trust model agreed by the DfE and the Diocese. They define areas of responsibility.

Attention was drawn to para 4 (ii). Anglican schools must join an Anglican MAT, however, this paragraph enables non-faith academies to join our MAT and for the MAT to recognise and support their individual ethos.

The 4 Members (The Bishop of Blackburn, The Diocesan Director of Education, The Chair of the Lancaster Ripley Educational Trust and the chair of Directors) will meet once a year.

It is expected that Parent Directors will be appointed to each Local Governing Body.

It was noted that the term of office for Directors is 4 years, although they can be reappointed at the end of their term.

5. DRAFT FUNDING AGREEMENT

The MAT will operate within a Master Funding Agreement, then each Academy receives an individual Funding Agreement. Our Deed of Variation was signed on 31 January 2017 and sent to Browne Jacobson. However, they appear not to have received this and so it has had to be sent again. We therefore we still await our Funding Agreement. The MAT has been fully approved however, and as a single MAT we continue with our existing budget arrangements.

6. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

a) General Principles

The draft scheme of delegation had been circulated and was discussed. There will be two levels of school delegation:

- Autonomous schools (to be used for successful schools)
- Supported schools (which will have restricted delegation)

The scheme can be changed at any time. We will require a set of common policies for aspects such as HR and Finance.

b) Scheme of Delegation for Ripley St Thomas

It was agreed that Ripley, as an outstanding school, will be an Autonomous School.

7. APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were confirmed:

- a) Chief Executive Officer: Mrs E Nicholls
- b) Finance Director: Mr A McKinnell
- c) Director of Operations: Mr G Gomersall
- d) Secretary and Clerk to the Board: Mrs J Rees
- e) Other

Three committees are to be formally established:

- Quality and Standards (to monitor academic performance)
- Finance (allocation and monitoring of expenditure)
- Audit (to receive reports on internal processes and ensure standards are adhered to)

ACTION

The core members of these committees were agreed as follows:

Quality and Standards

Prof J Crewdson (Chair)

Mrs D Cheetham

Mrs N Gomersall

Finance

Rev Canon P Ballard (Chair)

Rev M Gisbourne

Audit

Mr R Webb (Chair)

Clr Mrs V Wilson

THE CEO will be on all the committees. Any Director may join any of the committees if they wish. Terms of Reference will be required for each of the committees.

EN

8. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICITY

Mrs Nicholls gave a presentation on the Vision and Values of the MAT. Please see notes attached to these minutes.

Carnforth High School are exploring joining our MAT and we have had discussions with a number of other schools.

9. AOB

We need to draw up a formal process to follow for when other schools want to join the MAT.

EN

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

There was general agreement that the most suitable time for meetings was 4.30pm.

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 30 March 2017 at 4.30pm in The Hive.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 6.10pm

I confirm that the minutes have been agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date



The Lunesdale Multi Academy Trust

Moral Purpose

To secure an excellent education for all the young people in our care by working together, challenging and supporting each other and raising the aspirations of all.



The Lunesdale Multi Academy Trust

Vision

To build a medium-sized inclusive Multi-Academy Trust based in the geographical area around the Lune Valley and Lancaster with a group of primary and secondary schools committed to working together for the good of all our pupils.



The Lunesdale Multi-Academy Trust

Values and Principles

Our young people always come first

Our young people should have opportunity to develop in body, mind and spirit

Our young people can all be successful



The Lunesdale Multi-Academy Trust

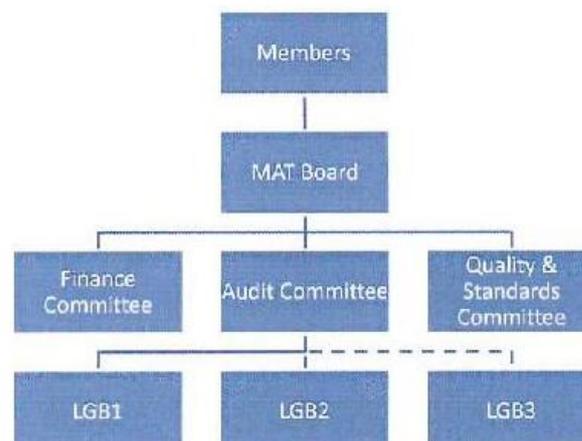
Benefits of being in a MAT

- Economies of scale – as budget pressures increase
- Joint procurement
- Alignment of systems to facilitate benchmarking and standardisation
- Partnership within a disciplined framework
- Formal collaboration
- Joint CPD
- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Talent management
- Co-creating curricula and schemes of learning
- Shared appointments for minority subjects
- Sixth form partnerships to ensure viability and self funding
- Joint specialist provision



Ways of working

- We support and challenge each other to be the best we can be
- We invest in our staff – they are our greatest resource
- We do what works for us in our context
- We have strong and consistent systems to guarantee high quality
- We are creative, optimistic and positive
- We believe that excellence should be a habit
- We encourage risk taking and creativity
- We hold each other to account
- We celebrate our successes and learn from our mistakes





The Lunesdale Multi-Academy Trust

Top slice (3%) to cover:

Central staffing costs
1 day CPD for all teaching staff in the trust
Governance and clerking costs
Accountants / Auditors and Internal Audit
HR and Legal Support
Health and Safety Support
Financial Software
Trust Improvement Partner costs
Building Condition Reports / Advice
LG Pension valuations
Due diligence
Marketing and Communications
Offices accommodation and services
Training – Trust staff
Travel Expenses
Admin supplies
Contingency/reserves



The Lunesdale Multi-Academy Trust

Next steps:

- Continue with risk management process: Legal and HR, Health & Safety, Finance, Premises
- Identify and prepare statutory Trust policies
- Communication: parents, local press, local schools
- Set up necessary trust and governance structures and schemes of delegation
- Complete the transfer process with Carnforth including due diligence
- Develop ongoing conversations with interested schools and with church primaries
- Develop a business plan for the medium term
- Work on collaborative school improvement issues with Carnforth