

BAY LEARNING TRUST
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
held at 4.30pm on Thursday 22 June 2017 at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy

Present: Rev Canon P Ballard, Mrs D Cheetham, Prof J Crewdson –Chair (JC), Mrs J Garnett, Revd M Gisbourne, Mrs N Gomersall, Mrs E Nicholls – CEO (EN), Cllr Mrs V Wilson

In Attendance: Mr A McKinnell - Director of Business & Finance (AMK), Mrs J Rees (Clerk)

The meeting opened with prayer.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Mr R Webb and Mrs J Watson and were accepted. There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2017, having been circulated, be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None that were not on the agenda.

4. CARNFORTH APPLICATION AND UPDATE ON PROGRESS

As part of the due diligence checks, the financial report for Carnforth High School was circulated and discussed. The school is very efficient financially, the budget having been very well managed, but like many schools faces challenges ahead. The school will be addressing the issue of their Sixth Form, which is not viable, in order to make savings.

The school's Ofsted report was circulated. The school continues to be 'Good'.

ICT due diligence has been completed and everything is in line.

The condition survey was circulated. Although there is £50k of more urgent work required there was nothing critical in the report. This should be discussed with the DfE as part of Carnforth joining the MAT.

Carnforth joining the MAT would edge the number of pupils closer to 3000 which would then make the MAT automatically eligible for additional CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) funding. Their application has been delayed because of the purdah and it looks like the earliest they would be able to join is December 2017.

The Directors agreed in principle to accept Carnforth High School into the MAT.

ACTION

5. RIPLEY BUDGET

The budget for Ripley St Thomas CE Academy was circulated, showing the reductions and allocations going forward to next year. The figures include a 1% pay award and incremental drift. The school needs to make £155k savings next year to balance the books. The school is not excessively staffed. There is an ongoing review and cost reduction programme. The school is looking at the Sixth Form, which this is the biggest risk factor, having lost £700k in funding over recent years, and the support structure. The result of the cost saving work will be brought to the next meeting.

EN/AMK

The budget figures (total income £8,277,592, total expenditure £8,433,216) were approved subject to there being no changes made by Ripley's Finance Committee or Ripley Local Governing Body (LGB).

6. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The draft regulations received at the previous meeting had been amended in the light of comments received from Directors and a new document was circulated. Directors were asked to review the document and pass any further comments to AMK. The Directors thanked AMK for his work in producing the document.

7. VISITS TO SCHOOLS

There has been a lot of interest from church Primary Schools. 25 Headteachers met with EN, JC and AMK at Ripley to discuss what they would want from a MAT and what the benefits would be for them. JC, EN and AMK, have subsequently visited [REDACTED] to give presentations to their Governors. They are due to meet all the [REDACTED] and Governors, and [REDACTED]. There is no limit to the number of schools the MAT can take on, but the same amount of due diligence is required for them as for large secondary schools.

Ripley is working very closely with [REDACTED] Secondary schools joining the MAT would generate economies of scale.

Draft letterheads for the MAT were circulated – the logo features an oyster catcher. It was suggested that there be a dedicated phone line for the MAT, rather than using the Ripley number.

EN

8. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL AT RIPLEY

The post of Principal at Ripley was advertised in the TES, at a cost of c£10,000, on eTeach and on the school's website. Only 5 applications were received, including one from India, one from Vietnam and one internal applicant. Whilst disappointing, this was not unexpected. People are reluctant to move to an outstanding school and being a Church School narrows the field further. At the Governing Body shortlisting meeting, which was attended by the Diocesan advisers and the school's SIP, it was agreed that only the internal applicant met the essential criteria. He will undergo a full formal interview process on 3 and 4 July. The Board agreed to delegate

the process to Ripley LGB. Their decision about whether or not to appoint will be emailed to Directors for ratification.

ACTION

9. AGENDA FOR TRAINING MORNING ON SATURDAY 24 JUNE

The agenda for the training morning for Directors was circulated along with the NGA guide 'Welcome to a Multi Academy Trust', a guide for newly appointed trustees. Representatives from Hill Dickinson will be carrying out the training on 24 June, along with David Donnelly, Mr Webb and Mrs Watson had sent their apologies for that day.

10. AOB

In the light of the reported hacking of computerised systems nationally, including the NHS, and also the recent power outage in Lancaster and district, the Directors asked for assurance that there are appropriate backup systems in place for Ripley and the MAT. AMK to speak to Mr Gomersall (Director of Operations) and Mr Janes (Network Manager) to confirm.

AMK

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The schedule of meetings for LGBs and the MAT Board will have to be aligned, with LGB meetings in the first half of a term and Board meetings, to receive their reports, in the second half. A draft schedule of meetings for 2017-18 will be sent out.

EN

The meeting closed with The Grace at 5.45pm

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

Signed.....(Chair)

Date