

Introductory Meeting of the Academy Trust on Thursday 15 September 2016 at 4pm

Present: Prof J Crewdson, Mrs E Nicholls, Mrs J Garnett, Mr P Ballard, Cllr Mrs V Wilson, Mrs N Gomersall, Revd M Gisbourne

In Attendance: Mr A McKinnell (Director of Business & Finance), Mr D Donnelly (consultant), Mrs J Rees (Clerk)

The meeting started with prayer.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Prof Crewdson made the introductions. The four members of the MAT are:

- Bishop of Blackburn
- Diocesan Director of Education
- Chair of the Ripley Trust
- Chair of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will be made up of 7 members (appointed by the Members) plus the Principal. It is anticipated that Mrs D Cheetham and Mr R Webb will be joining those present at this meeting as Board Directors.

2. UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION

- The name for the MAT (agreed with the Diocese) will be the Lunesdale MAT. This provides an identifiable geographical zone (Lune Valley – Preston) and will not deter non-faith schools from wanting to join.
- The Articles of Association have been drafted with the help of solicitors Browne Jacobson and the diocese. Copies of the Articles will be emailed to members.
- With the help of Mr Donnelly, an application for £98,000 from sponsor capacity fund has been made, with the expectation that £60,000 - £70,000 will be awarded.
- The consultation on conversion to a MAT ended on Tuesday. Only one response had been received from a parent saying they had no objection so long as we preserve the quality of education at Ripley.
- There have been discussions with the Diocese, the DfE, the RSC and one or two local schools. Carnforth HS are keen to join our Mat. They are taking a formal vote on Monday with the hope that they will convert to an Academy and then join our MAT on 1 April 2017.
- Still to do:
 - Application form to be completed
 - TU reps to be informed
 - Governing Body to receive Articles
 - Scheme of delegation to be produced

ACTION

Principal
/ Chair /
Clerk

3. LEVELS OF DELEGATION

Mr Donnelly explained that the Members' only role is to appoint the Board of Directors (Directors are also known as the Trustees). The MAT needs to look at the impact the Trust has. It should audit the work of schools to ensure they are being effective. It is expected that Trust meetings should total approximately 15 hours per year. Various functions, therefore, need to be delegated. A document was circulated showing different categories of Function and Tasks. Guided by Mr Donnelly, there was lengthy discussion about possible levels of delegation (with options of The Trust, Local Governing Bodies, an individual Director/Governor, Executive Headteacher, Head of Academy, Another Committee). These levels of delegation can be different for all schools in the MAT.

We should develop a list of non-negotiables for schools in the Trust.

There should be 3 committees:

- Finance Committee
- Audit Committee
- Standards Committee

Prof Crewdson suggested that we explore case studies of existing MATs to see what levels of delegation they have employed.

4. PEN PORTRAITS

The 50 word pen portraits of Directors to go on the application to the DfE should focus on skills rather than experience.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm

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

Signed.....(Chair)

Date