



Full Board Meeting

Hybrid meeting held between Microsoft Teams and Spring Common Academy Meeting Room

7 February 2024 – 6PM

MINUTES

Present: Kim Taylor, Mike Westcott-Rudd, Julie Perry, Becky Caudwell, Anthony Upshall, Billy Mollison, Mark Williams, Sue Bailey.

Apologies: Rebecca Berton

In Attendance: Abi Crulley (Clerk)

No.	Minutes	Actions
1.	<p>Declarations of interest and apologies</p> <p>No Declaration of interests. No apologies.</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of previous minutes and matters arising (where not covered elsewhere)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board considerations <p><i>Matters arising</i></p> <p>MW raised concerns about board papers. Board papers should be prepared and issued no less than 5 working days in advance. MW understands that members are not always able to attend in person but has addressed preference to be in attendance in person.</p> <p>MW also requests the meetings become shorter, to one and a half hours. In regard to governance, MW has contacted NGA, but they are remarkably poor in their governance and have not replied. The minutes are going to be shorter to avoid long pages of minutes, instead a summary and they key points. JP and MWR mentioned that a decision log is a good idea.</p>	
3.	<p>Sub -Committee reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching, Learning and Welfare Finance, People and Premises 	

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Signed.....(Chair) Date.....

	<p>RB was not in attendance but did circulate a document prior to the meeting. KT has had an update from Cambridgeshire Council, which the updates have been filed into teams. The main points to from this are doing training on staff, filtering and online safety. There are more duties on how safeguarding is reported. JP presented the safeguarding policy to the board for approval. MW mentioned that at the FPP meeting there was agreement to use the correct terminology of 'academy' rather than 'school'. All members of the board agreed. There was some confusion about distribution of documents. All documents are to be distributed by email, not just directed to teams. JP suggested that it is an immense workload with there being more than two academies. JP suggested having a trust version then an annex version with all the different information such as contact details of each academy.</p> <p>BM discussed the FPP meeting. There is now £1.4m in the bank, with £163,000 owed. KT reported these debts as paid, apart from one £31,000 from the council. The Audit matters which were raised by the auditors were insignificant and immaterial, so the audit report is recommended to the board for approval. BM discussed the various policies. There was also a confidential matter that has been concluded. It was Genevieve's last meeting too. The policies for approval is the revised health and safety policy, statutory policy, sickness and absence policy and discretionary leave. Board approves.</p>	
4.	<p>Chief Executive Officer's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy update <p>KT proposed that the Board approved the risk log the 26th of January 24, which shows approved FPP and updated for this committee. Board approval given. KT mentioned that she is awaiting information about land surveys which has been delayed by the council. This is due for completion at the end of February, so the funding agreement can be completed. Due to the funding agreement not complete, contracts cannot be issued regarding recruitment at PWA. Local authorities are prepared to write a letter to underwrite the risk. KT requested approval to open recruitment at SCA. KT said once the funding agreement is</p>	

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	<p>signed, the risk level is extremely low because after that the pre-Ofsted inspection will occur. If the school cannot open in September, it must be aware that staff still must be paid. BM proposed that the sign off the finance that should come down to the board for a maximum amount of money that can be committed for spending, and that the operational issues of staffing and adverting roles should go to the CEO and not to the board. MW responds that it is the financial risk that they are discussing the implications of a taking that risk. JP remarked that the level of financial risk needs to be quantified however we need to ensure that we are not seen as any part of the delay. JP also said that there is a business continuity issue, that SC should not be unsettled because of these changes. JP further states that they may be able to mitigate that risk via an indemnity. KT reassures JP that the situation is in hand and that things are on track presently. KT discusses the strategy half day for the merge. MW agreed and said that he will work on an agenda for this meeting and asked if anyone has any has anything they wish to add to the agenda for this. SB made a comment about the central team that if we are going to have open discussion about the growth of the central team, she would like to know what finance is for example Presley Wood going to bring in which made us have that capacity. SB said that from her point of view she would not feel comfortable even if it is on the agenda of the strategy day to contribute unless I know what the financial situation is. MW clarified if what is meant that finance should be an input into the session to give context to the strategy meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>KT said that her and MW have been working with the legal team on the article's association, which MW will manage. These articles will be reviewed for every academy, either acquisition or transfer. MW explains this will get submitted to the DFE by the solicitors, who will approve them, and once they have been reviewed the trustees can them review these as well. MW states that in reviewing these articles, there is a concept of a coopted trustee as opposed to a regular trustee, which is approved by the board, that cannot themselves approve the appointment of another coopted trustee. MW said that we have not been appreciating this</p>	

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	nuance, and that he will the board to approve all trustee's so that there are no more coopted trustees. SB states that she does not feel that KT documents give her confidence in being able to fully discuss SC if they were interviewed by Ofsted. JP speaks to this as said that things are different now as we now have the AAG and these will be key to creating resources for the trustees and AAG members who are put in from of Ofsted so that they have all the information.	
6.	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS REDACTED	
7.	Date of Strategy Meeting Saturday 23 March, 9:00 am and Next Board Meeting 27 March 2024 at 6pm	
8.		
9.		

Meeting ended at XXX

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