



MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION TRUST MEETING

Thursday 19 May 2022, 8.15am
Central Services

Present

Emma Gautrey, Rob Guthrie, Sam Hearth, Andrew Holt (Chair), Guy Magrath, Clive Norgaard Morton, Martyn Rhowbotham, Stuart Williams (Executive Principal).

In Attendance

John Harrison, Kelly Jackson, Alice Beckwith, Natalie Ray, Sheryl Wilson (Clerk).

1. Welcome introductions and apologies for absence

Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Sally Kirkby and Alex Mould.

2. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of personal or pecuniary interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2022

The minutes were signed to be a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Deed of variation funding documents & Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA)

Natalie Ray confirmed that the building plans are proceeding and the Funding Agreement had been updated due to the College expansion. Stuart Williams advised that the Funding Agreement is a legal contract between the Academy Trust and the DfE in respect of what is funded and what the obligations are as a result. There is a Master Funding Agreement, and each of the academies have their own Supplementary Funding Agreement. These are legally binding contracts.

Question: What flexibility is there with negotiating the Funding Agreement?

There is no flexibility, if the Funding Agreement is not signed the College could not proceed with the planned expansion.

The Funding Agreements had been shared with Trustees on the VLE prior to the meeting. Natalie Ray confirmed that solicitors have gone through each of the agreements. Trustees gave their delegated approval to Stuart Williams to proceed.

6. White Paper - MAT Expansion

Stuart Williams presented the Government's White Paper on the screen and highlighted key themes around the expectations of primary schools to focus on reading, writing and maths. A significant target associated with this is being imposed.

By 2030, the target is that 90% of pupils are meeting the expected standard in maths and reading in KS2. In KS4 the national GCSE average grade in both English language and maths is to be increased from 4.5 to 5. The strategy is to ensure that teachers are trained in literacy and numeracy in all areas of the country in order to deliver high standards for pupils.

Question: Trustees noted the word 'strong' being emphasised in the white paper and queried what a 'strong trust' is perceived to be. Does a trust need to be large to be a strong trust?

Stuart Williams advised that the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi and Alicia Kearns MP visited the College and Harington School on Friday 6 May and during this visit they expressed the view that the Rutland and District Schools' is a strong trust in any measure. The government, however, states the following in the White Paper: 'We expect that most trusts will be on a trajectory to either serve a minimum of 7,500 pupils or run at least 10 schools'.

Question: What is the government's thinking with increasing the size of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)?

The view is that larger MATs are more effective and strong schools can support weaker performing schools. Large MATs have the resources and economies of scale, however, from our perspective this may not be as effective because of distance.

Question: How accurate are the Key Stage 2 results in terms of the predictive grades?

They are usually quite good; however, the standard can vary depending on the cohort.

Trustees discussed the options of approaching other schools to join the existing Trust and the strategy will be included in the Trust's Transformation Plan in the new academic year. Considerations will include the geographical area and recruitment and retention of teachers. Stuart Williams will also contact the Regional Schools Commissioner. **ACTION**

7. Term and School Day Structure

Alice Beckwith presented the paper on the length of the term and school day structure, which ties in with one of the aspects of the White Paper which insists that there is an average length of a school day. (This has previously been looked at by trustees and at that time it was considered appropriate to remain with the current structure).

The government is enforcing schools to offer 32.5 hours per week of teaching time. The College and Harington School currently fulfils 33.5 hours per week, however, term time is 37 weeks, compared to other schools who have 38 weeks. Over the year, the school hours equate to 32 hours and 57 minutes. The view from the solicitors is that the requirement is fulfilled. However, there is a proposal to lengthen the school day on a Wednesday. As live assemblies have restarted and the rota is short of one assembly slot, the lunchtime is shortened on a Wednesday in order to add in a tutorial followed by the Electives programme. By extending Wednesdays by 10 minutes, this would assist with the current issues. At this stage, there is no proposal to change the term dates. Trustees agreed with the proposal of extending Wednesdays by 10 minutes, subject to consultation.

8. A.O.B

As John Harrison has secured a promotion at another school, Oliver Teasel has been appointed as Head of Harington School with effect from the new academic year.

The clerk asked trustees if they preferred to hold the Trust meetings at 8.15am as opposed to 3pm in the new academic year. The Resources meeting would then follow the Trust meeting. Trustees agreed with this proposal. Trustees were reminded of their duty to attend meetings regularly.

9. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 7 July 2022, 3pm