

# INSPIRE PARTNERSHIP MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



## ACADEMY TRUST MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>
Monday, 19 June 2017	6.00 pm	Gawthorpe Community Primary Academy

### PRESENT

<b>Chair of the Trust :</b>	Mr J Hesketh	
<b>Members:</b>	Mrs J Cook	Mr M Ellerker
<b>Clerk:</b>	Mrs V Squires	

### ITEM

### ACTION

#### ITEMS

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. WAYS OF WORKING**

The Chair opened the meeting and shared his understanding of the remit of the group with his two Member colleagues. He said that they were the shareholders, the owners, the Members of the Trust, like a Shareholders group, with Articles of Association that cannot be changed without the agreement of the Academy Trust Members. He said that it operated like an AGM in regard to the Articles of Association.

He said that the Trust would have to propose the Articles of Association and that the Members would have to agree them and that membership of the Trust Board was also within the remit of Members. The Chair said that he had been involved, through a Selection Committee, with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in interviews to build up the Trustees to about ten. He gave the backgrounds of three new Members that had been agreed.

The Chair referred to his experience of a MAT in Leeds and the changes to Trustees over the year and how many times they had attended. He said that the Trust Board would receive this information and the accounts and that there would be a meeting, probably in September 2017, to agree the accounts.

He asked his fellow Trust Members, Mr Ellerker and Mrs Cook, what part they felt they wanted to play and asked their views on how they should deal with the appointment of Trust Members, adding that the Trust Board was the guardians of

ITEM	ACTION
<p>the Trust. Members discussed their role and what they should do, for instance, in inviting parents to the AGM.</p> <p>The Trust Members looked at their responsibilities and how to discharge them. The Chair cited the old Annual Parents' Meeting as a model and asked his colleagues what they wanted to do and how far they wished to take it.</p> <p>Mrs Cook shared information about being invited to her AGM at work and the ability to vote by proxy.</p> <p>The Chair referred to a Government proposal to put workers on Company Boards.</p> <p>Mr Ellerker responded that he felt more reassured that he was not behind the curve.</p> <p>The Chair spoke about his role as the Chair of the Trust and exercising governance responsibly; about understanding governance in a Multi Academy Trust and in a school. He reflected on past LA relationships with schools.</p> <p>He said that the Inspire Partnership MAT was the employer of all the schools in the group and was responsible for employment in its schools and gave examples of responsibility for, for example, Equal Pay, and Mr Ellerker added Disability and Race as two further examples.</p> <p>Members discussed Trade Union involvement, Policies and the Trust Scheme of Delegation documents (similar to Terms of Reference in a school).</p> <p>The Chair referred to the schools in the MAT and how to get the balance right across the different establishments, some of which were not close geographically and had their own individual communities.</p> <p>Mrs Cook said that Governors had thought that the Governing Bodies would continue for each school and that the MAT would oversee them.</p> <p>The Chair gave advice on 'due diligence' across the schools and the requirement to update the framework on a regular basis. He suggested that, as long as key performance indicators were being met, operation would be good and consistency across the board was desirable. He said that personnel guidance could be across the group of schools.</p> <p>Mr Ellerker asked about finance and the Chair said that the largest issue was pensions. Members noted the details of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund and were given an explanation of the Teachers' Pension Fund. Members noted the details of the Teachers' Pension Scheme over a forty year career.</p>	
<p><b>4 MEMBERS' EXPECTATIONS</b></p>	
<p>The Chair asked Mrs Cook and Mr Ellerker what they had expected as a Member of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust.</p> <p>Mrs Cook outlined her experience and knowledge of business as a qualified</p>	

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<p>Accountant.</p> <p>Mr Ellerker explained his background in finance, auditing and as a business owner.</p> <p>Each explained their experience of being Governors and their involvement to date.</p> <p>The Chair asked if they had seen the Articles of Association and they commented on their understanding of them. He also asked whether three Trust Members was sufficient and they shared their responses and discussed.</p> <p>Members discussed defining the role of the Inspire Partnership MAT Board.</p> <p>The Chair referred to John Carter’s book and its stated views.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Do you think there will be questions back from the schools?  <b>A:</b> The Chair said he thought there would, that there would be meetings of the Heads and the Trust. He named other leaders across the Trust and how the MAT Board would have influence over those.</p> <p>The Chair said the question was open to interpretation and an aim was to encourage people in the community who were not currently represented. He asked what part the Inspire Partnership MAT Members wanted to have.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that there needed to be some succession planning for Membership of the Inspire Partnership MAT and asked Members to think whether they would wish to commit long term to membership of the Board and whether they would continue or cease their role as Governors.</p> <p>The Chair said that there could be some changing relationships down the line in regard to governance and school management, given the nature of a number of schools. He reflected on the capacity of small primary schools to undertake what was required.</p> <p>Members noted the membership of the Trust Board and discussed whether it needed to be extended.</p> <p>The Chair explained his role and his experience as a member of an Interim Executive Board (IEB) at another school across the district. He explained his personal background and educational experience.</p> <p>Members discussed the remit of the group and came up with some headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to meet termly</li> <li>• legal responsibility</li> <li>• risk factors</li> <li>• liability insurance</li> <li>• philosophies and ethics</li> <li>• operating framework</li> <li>• financial responsibility and accounts</li> </ul>	

ITEM	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quality control and principles</li> <li>• role and remit of the Trust Board</li> <li>• agenda and standard items</li> <li>• policies including health and safety</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p>	
<p><b>Resolved 50</b>  <i>That the next Members' meeting be held at 6.00 pm on Monday, 25 June 2018 at The Maypole Centre, Gawthorpe Community Academy.</i></p>	

**MEETING CLOSE TIME:**