

.INSPIRE PARTNERSHIP MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



ACADEMY TRUST MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES

DATE:

8 February 2022

TIME:

4.30 pm

LOCATION:

Via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

In the Chair:	Mrs H Ranson (HR)	
Members:	Mr R Barraclough (RB) Mr M Benn (MB)	Mr M Ellerker (ME) Mr S Tottles (ST)
In Attendance:	Mrs S Vickerman (CEO) (SV) Mrs K Stubbs (KS) part	Mr J North – Chair of Trustees (JN)
Clerk:	Mrs S Stott (SS)	
Apologies:		

ITEM

ACTION

ITEM		ACTION
1. INTRODUCTION	<p>Mr M Benn, as the newly appointed Member for the IPMAT was introduced to the meeting and welcomed by attendees.</p> <p>Mrs K Stubbs has been invited to the meeting to introduce herself, share some of her background and experience as the new Deputy CEO of the IPMAT, and was welcomed by all Members.</p>	
2. ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING	Mrs H Ranson was elected as Chair for the meeting.	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	There were no apologies for absence.	
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA	There were no Declarations of Interest shared in respect of any items on the Agenda.	
4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2021	<p>Q: How far along is the Trust with the proposal for Gag Pooling?</p> <p>A: We still have some way to go in finding a proposal that will suit all HTs and schools across the Trust. Following a recent meeting with another Trust who have already introduced Gag Pooling, attended by myself, the CFO, COO and a number of Trustees with a specific financial background, a proposal is currently being drafted.</p> <p>SV shared an overview of the discussions that took place at the meeting. It was highlighted that the GAG (General Annual Grant), Sports Premium, Pupil Premium catch-up and recovery funding all stay with the school. At this time the Trust centrally</p>	

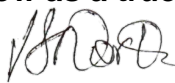
ITEM	ACTION
<p>takes 6% off the top slice of funding for the central services. The IPMAT has Reserves of approximately £2.2m. SV noted that the issue is that we have some schools who are sitting on considerable reserves, albeit with very valid reasons. However, we have other schools who are struggling.</p> <p>SV commented that the MAT is one organisation with one overall pot of funds. We have discussed with HTs the option of gag pooling the reserves and whilst the principal was agreed, some HTs who have considerable reserves were reluctant to move this into the Trust central pot. The draft proposal will include an option to move all the Reserves into one account and add each school's name against their own pot contributed. We would take a top slice of these reserves of between 2%- 5% to sit in the central services area. Schools would receive a core offer, but SV asked Members to note that as yet, no final decision has been made and agreed.</p> <p>RB commented that the Trust needs to ensure that it moves away from the concept of assuming that if school hasn't any reserves it doesn't mean that the school has wasted money.</p> <p>RB noted that questions should perhaps also be asked by Trustees and local governors as to why such high reserves are held in any school. SV explained the reasons why one particular school had had to keep such high reserves, highlighting the lower pupil numbers. The majority of other schools are holding approximately £100k of Reserves. RB suggested that the Trust moves to a position where all KS2 children have access to IT equipment and noted that it is a mental shift for HTs to understand the need for gag pooling.</p> <p>Q: The schools' with the high reserves are they going to spend this money? A: The reserves at one particular school has been built up due to a dip in pupil numbers, to ensure staff costs were covered. A further school's reserves have built up due to the SLT working under the National Leaders of Education scheme.</p> <p>The need as explained, for building those reserves will be reviewed when Trust wide benchmarking on staffing in terms of ratios is undertaken, which is due shortly.</p> <p>RB noted it appears the Trustees and central team have a good plan and proposal and looks forward to hearing how this progresses. SV commented that we know there will be consultations taking place in due course involving HTs and LGBs. SV also reported that the Trust CFO is working extremely hard and proving extremely effective in sharing detailed, accurate budget information with HTs, SBOs and LGBs.</p> <p>Considerable discussion on the gag pooling proposals and possible further options that the Trust might investigate further took place with attendees. RB commented that gag pooling, in his experience is an absolutely positive option. JN noted that we now need to move forward in as fair a way as possible for all schools and suggested that the CFO attends the next Chair's meeting to explain gag pooling to all LGB Chairs across the Trust.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>5. TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS</p> <p>MB has now joined the MAT as a new Member and had been introduced at the start of this meeting.</p> <p>JN reported that two Trustees, Mr Paul Arundel and Mr Barry Smith have resigned and explained the background to their resignations.</p> <p>Two new Trustees have been appointed as agreed by the Members and were confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs V Morgan (VM) who has a background in business and was previously a secondary school teacher. • Mr S Bartram (SB) whose is a Deputy HT in a Trust based in the Kirklees area with considerable experience in school improvement and safeguarding. <p>JN explained that as SB has a child in one of our Trust schools we approached the Academy Ambassadors to ensure there was no conflict of interest. The Academy Ambassadors confirmed there was not, therefore he was interviewed, appointed and has attended the recent Trustee meeting.</p>	
<p>6. CEO REPORT</p> <p>The CEO report has been shared with Members prior to the meeting via the GVO portal and SV asked if attendees had any questions.</p> <p>RB noted that the Phonics results included within the report were very good.</p> <p>SV explained the teaching of the RWI scheme to Members and noted the importance of having it in schools. Ofsted Inspectors like it and have been trained in this area so understand what to look for and what to expect. It is an extremely scripted, consistent scheme which is working really well across the Trust. SV noted she believes this is an excellent scheme and will improve the pupils spellings going forward, due to the rigour of what is being taught.</p> <p>SV stated that the Consultant the Trust had appointed to complete the Due Diligence review at Gawthorpe and South Hiendley is extremely thorough and professional with her reviews and is an Ofsted Inspector. We have used her for a number of years but unfortunately, the Consultant's husband is very seriously ill, and she cannot travel and support us at this time. We hope, eventually that we will be able to resume this strong relationship. As we know that Ofsted Inspections have been delayed we have been able to postpone some of these Due Diligence visits and have introduced Peer reviews instead. SV noted that the next school likely to move into the Ofsted window this September will be South Hiendley Primary, and on the recommendation of Margot d'Arcy we have appointed a Consultant to conduct a Due Diligence visit in the summer term.</p> <p>Following the resignation of the Gawthorpe Primary HT, we have recently appointed to this position.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>7. THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-24 INC IT COSTINGS/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</p> <p>The following documents have been shared with attendees prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three year strategic plan 2021-24 inc IT costings • IPMAT School Improvement Plan <p>SV explained that the two separate documents are very similar, except that costings have been added into the Strategic Plan inclusively between the years 2021-2024. This information is what will be included in the gag pooling offer to schools across the Trust. SV shared a comprehensive overview of the contents of the strategic plan.</p> <p>IT Costed 3 Year Plan</p> <p>SV explained that the Trust has been working with the Yorkshire & Humber Computing Hub. For a one form entry school they are recommending one set of laptops and one set of iPads for each class. RB confirmed that within the Trust he works for, pupils use Chromebooks, which he would personally recommend the Trust considering before making a final decision on which IT equipment is purchased. RB explained that every child across KS2 has a device, and he wouldn't personally recommend laptops as their overall shelf-life is shorter due to having hard drives. Laptops take longer to start up and over a period of time due to the hard drives, they slow down considerably. Chromebooks have no hard drives and allows good access to Google Classrooms as an example. SV agreed to speak to the Yorkshire & Humber Computing Hub again and put this suggestion forward. RB invited any Trustee or Member to visit one of their schools and see how well this equipment works in the classroom.</p> <p>RB also recommended speaking to the newly appointed Trustee, Mr Simon Bartram who has vast experience of pupils using Chromebooks.</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>Induction Training for new Governors/Trustees & Members</p> <p>JN confirmed that the next Induction training that would be available for Members is on 30 March 2022 and will explain how the Trust stands together. The Clerk confirmed that a GVO notification will be sent out advertising this training after the half-term break.</p> <p>Q: Which Trustee now has oversight of Safeguarding? A: This is Mr S Bartram.</p> <p>RB asked it to be noted Members have asked that the Safeguarding Trustee has checked that the IPMAT RSE policies have been updated in light of the SVSH Ofsted investigation. SV agreed to check with the Trust Safeguarding Lead, who will be meeting with the link Safeguarding Trustee in due course.</p> <p>Members requested that their thanks be shared with all the HTs, school staff and the central team for their ongoing work during these incredibly difficult times. It has been greatly appreciated by all the Members.</p>	<p>SV</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<i>That the next meeting be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 4.30pm at the Maypole Centre</i>	
MEETING CLOSE TIME: 6.00pm	

Signed below as a true and Correct Record

Signature: 
Print Name: 18.02.2022