

In Attendance:

Tracy Carson (Clerk), Simon Hanson, Jackie McHanwell (Chair), Tony McPhillips (Adviser), Karen Mills, Siobhan O'Neil, David Pearmain,

1. Procedural Items

Apologies for absence: Rick Portsmouth

Visitors in attendance: Sarah Holmes-Carne, Val Wigham, Jo Jackowiak

The Board of Trustees has invited Tony McPhillips of Muckle LLP to attend board meetings as an adviser/observer. Tony has agreed to provide the support on a pro bono basis. Due to the fact that he is an equity partner in Muckle (i.e. an owner of that business) and the firm has provided advice to the Academy Trust it is not possible for him to take a position on the Board or act as a Trustee as this would give rise to potential conflict-of-interests in that it could be deemed under both company law and the financial regulations that he has a financial interest in the activities of the Academy Trust. Ironically, his colleagues at Muckle who are not equity partners and therefore not owners of that business would not face the same governance obligations. As an adviser/observer Tony will operate to the same high governance standards as all those attending the meetings and will declare and exclude himself from any matters that would give rise to a personal or professional conflict-of-interest in the usual way. He will not have any voting rights.

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

Declaration of interests: The annual declaration had been signed and was on the school's website. Simon Hanson joined the Trustees and signed an additional form. Other Trustees present confirmed there were no other changes.

Matters Arising: Trustees confirmed there was nothing specific to report regarding communication.

2. Strategic/Monitoring & Evaluation Items

DP pointed out that the focus for KS would be on the Post Ofsted Action Plan. SHC outlined the first 8 points which came from the generic areas Ofsted identified as having to improve. It was noted that the Trustees had delegated as much as possible to KS GB which included monitoring the POAP and the GB had set up a POAP committee. Trustees were encouraged to keep asking questions and challenge about maths.

VW referred to the SW strategic risk management and response document. It was noted that SW will be the first studio school in the country to have Y7. The biggest risk previously was numbers and financial problems. VW pointed out they had worked really hard to get year 7 sorted and were now looking at Post 16. VW pointed out that they were offering something that was unique but it was difficult to get the message out. VW pointed out that they were not now a Studio School as they have year 7.

3. Accountability Items

SO outlined the Chairs report and it was noted that they have recruited two new people however it was noted that RP had now resigned from KSGB. KSGB has agreed a new vision for next two years and the need to get from RI to good by overseeing POAP. SH pointed out that he had not had a handover from BP and this was his first meeting but was happy to provide a written report to demonstrate accountability and challenge.

Discussion took place with regard to governing bodies and the induction of governors.



4. Kenton School Staffing Structure

DP referred to the paper and pointed out that we can't do this in one year. Trustees enquired whether we have a timescale on when we will know more about the financial position. DP pointed out that DE must provide an accurate view about what the budget position is for 2017-18.

SHC referred to the document which was amended in light of views from KS Governors. KS Governors agreed to protect teaching and learning but also looked at support roles that make a difference to the children and agreed children's mental health was also a priority. Trustees were concerned that they did not have accurate figures. DP pointed out that DE was given the deadline of next Tuesday for the financial position. DP agreed to point out to DE that the Trust Board are very concerned about this and insist that this is done.

5. Future leadership of the Trust

CEO recruitment: the post was advertised but we did not shortlist from the applicants. TM pointed out that as academies matured the real challenge is financial accountability and budget deficit. There was a massive pressure from DFE on financial accountability and money which is shaping things.

It was noted that JMC had to leave the meeting and SO proceeded to chair the meeting in her absence.

Trustees referred to plan B and being mindful of the DFE preferred model of CEO. It was recognised that plan B was filling the gap; there was the financial role with the support of auditors etc and the other role is challenge. Trustees agreed that they need and want more time to make the right decision and look at all the options. It was agreed to call a Trustees meeting during the last week in March and at this stage not to re-advertise.

TC – To Action

6. Trustees Questions/Issues

Kenton Schools Academy Trust Paper: It was suggested this goes on both schools websites.

7. Any other Business

No issues raised

