



Minutes

Meeting	Board of Trustees
Date	23 January 2023

Attendance & Apologies

Trustees		Trustees	
Christopher Watt (Chair) CW	P	Frances Craven (FC) Co-opted Trustee	P
Jamie Clarke (JRC)	P	Gary Foote (GF) Co-opted Trustee	P
Tim Foster (TF) Trustee	P	Trust representatives	
Jo Chitty (JC) Trustee	P	Sue Wagstaff (SW) CFO	P
Duncan Nicholson (DN) Co-opted Trustee	P	Lindsay Oake (LO) PAO	Ap

(key: P=Present, Ap=apologies received, A=absent)

In attendance: Katie Fell (Clerk) (KLF)

No.	Item	Action
1.	Welcome, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was quorate with all board members in attendance. 	
2.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
3.	Declaration of interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None declared. 	
4.	MMA from 7th November 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the board meeting on 7 November 2022 were reviewed and confirmed as an accurate record. The chair signed the minutes electronically due to the meeting being remote. All actions were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To LGB / AIB positions to be discussed in the CEO Report presented later. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DN to support Stantonbury AIB GF may join the mailing list for LGA and join as an observer to see how the detail of the LGB meetings work. 	
5.	Safeguarding Report - Jane Burton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Burton reported that there is a strong culture of safeguarding across the trust due external safeguarding reviews from NGH Consulting, in conjunction with link trustees and school improvement directors. There is a high level of compliance and CPD within trust and any areas identified for improvement are small and manageable. Consistency with processes and open communication across the trust are key and linkages with DSLs across all schools has been initiated and progressed. A central data dashboard is being set up supported by central document storage and information sharing. Looking at standardising several aspects of safeguarding across the trust to ensure consistency of quality and process. E.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single data entry system ie CPOMs or MyConcern. Looking at CPD for governors rather than a regionalised approach. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Possibly looking at a mental health ambassador across the schools. We have been training up mental health advisors but losing them to other external roles. ○ Looking at recovery plans and making sure safeguarding is picked up and built into this. ○ Linking safeguarding with attendance and mental health etc. ● Jane shared a RAG rated summary report for safeguarding across the trust. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No schools are deemed ineffective, but recognise there are 3 schools requiring further action (EWS, Huxlow, Stantonbury) either due to latest Ofsted inspection, feedback from NGH Consulting or findings from SCR audits. ● Appendices provide details for each school with specific issues flagged for trustees to be aware of. ● JB welcomed feedback and can accommodate any changes that Trustees may request. ● Link trustees and the Director of Safeguarding meet every half term. They thanked Jane for pulling the information together in a relatively short space of time, and look forward to seeing how this develops going forward. ● Trustees were assured the level of detail provides sufficient information for trustees to gauge the effectiveness of safeguarding within the trust. ● ACTION: JBU to provide an update at every board meeting and talk through with trustees any safeguarding complaints or issues. 	JBU
6.	<p>CEO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trustees received the CEO report in advance of the meeting. Items below were highlighted for discussion. ● Attendance for pupils and staff has not been great since the pandemic; things have not bounced back to pre-pandemic levels as we had expected they might. ● East Mids has some of the worst attendance across the regions. <i>Trustees asked about the reasons behind higher absence and whether further analysis would be useful. The CEO reported that there were a handful of children who are persistent school refusers and the social contract of attending school has been a challenge post pandemic. Higher prominence amongst DS students, but it is very frustrating for school staff who have put in many measures to get pupils back into school. An issue in some schools is the level of parental engagement and needing to seek their support with getting their child back into school.</i> ● Year 11 progress data is lower across the trust than expected for this time of the year but this is compared to pre-pandemic levels. We are using the higher grade thresholds from 2019 exams which will skew the data. ● Big 6 KPI data was shared with trustees. These grids have been shared with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors and the information will be going to LGB meetings in due course. ● The trust workforce data was discussed and the Data Strategy Manager is looking at pulling this all together in a portal for trustees. ● Trustees were asked for feedback on two school projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sponne Daventry Free School application originally approved in 2016/2017 is no longer feasible due to the fact that pupil numbers in the area do not demand additional provision of a new school. Despite many hours already invested, the project is no longer financially viable and it does not make sense to progress. ○ DECISION: Trustees agreed to withdraw from the project. ○ Trustees received a proposal to consider The Spires Academy joining TLT. This has come to light very quickly due to their current trust wishing to hand back all their alternative provision schools. The Executive Team are enthusiastic about the prospect of Spires joining TLT and see an opportunity in it. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DECISION: Trustees agreed to proceed with the DD and to confirm to the Advisory Board panel in March that we are happy to go ahead pending the outcome of the DD. ● Trustees asked about industrial action. <i>The NEU teaching staff have confirmed 1 Feb as the first date. Further information was sent to trustees after the meeting about further strike dates and the plans schools have for delivering education remotely to some year groups on strike days.</i> 	
7.	<p>CFO Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trustees received the CFO summary report in advance of the meeting. The following highlights were discussed: ● The trust is in a stable and secure financial position. We need to look at the plan for allocating reserves and how schools plan to address rising or falling rolls and investment in the capital estate. ● SCA schemes for funding will come to the March meeting of the Finance Committee and a separate Estates Meeting will review SCA bid requests. ● Trustee JC noted that Water Hall had no SCA bids submitted. <i>This is because there are no essential works identified and the school is looking to do something else for the foundation section.</i> ● Recent staff appointments to the central team include Camillia Salter as HR Strategy Manager, James Green as Estates & Assets Manager, and Emma McVey as Management Accountant. 	
8.	<p>Risk Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risks identified during the course of the meeting and to be updated on the TLT risk register include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the reputational risks of withdrawing from the Sponne Daventry project and for taking on The Spires Academy. ○ Reduce the risk scores for central appointments now new colleagues have been employed in these strategic roles. 	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The board of trustees approved the following governor appointments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frances Craven, EWS Trust appointed governor ○ Duncan Nicholson, Stantonbury Trust appointed governor ○ Stephen Heghoyan, GAC Parent Governor ○ Claire Pruden, GAD Parent Governor ○ Kerry Amory, GAS LGB Co-opted Governor ○ Rachel Pearc, GAS Parent Governor ○ Kayleigh Pilcher, Knowles Parent Governor ○ Tracey Soanes, Knowles Parent Governor ○ Debbie Humm-Osborne, Sponne Parent Governor ○ Peter Light, Sponne Parent Governor ● The AGM 2023 now follows this meeting. ● There being no further business the meeting was declared closed. <p>The Chair thanked trustees for their time and continued support.</p>	

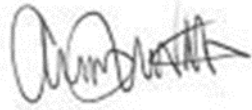
Meeting closed at: 17:57

Next Meetings:

Trustees Board Meeting 20th March 2023

Trustees Board Meeting 15th May 2023

Trustees Board Meeting 17th July 2023



Signed: _____
Chair of Trustees

Date: 20/03/2023

ACTIONS from this meeting		
ACTION	BY WHOM	BY DATE
Safeguarding report from Jane Burton to be a standing agenda item	JBu/Clerk	Ongoing