

Minutes

OAT Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday 14th September 2017

Time: 11.00am

Location: The Salisbury Room, Thistle Euston Hotel, Cardington Road, Euston, NW1 2LP

Present:

Paul Hann	PH	Chair
Sir Robin Bosher	RB	Trustee
Ian Brookman	IB	Trustee
Frances Hall	FH	Trustee
Nick Hudson	NH	Interim CEO and Trustee
Peter Murray	PM	Trustee and Founding Chair
Bal Samra	BS	Trustee
Mark Stanyer	MS	Executive Principal and Trustee

Apologies:

Wendy Barnes	WB	Trustee
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In Attendance:

Mark Henson	MH	Company Secretary
Nicole McCartney	NMC	National Director of Performance and Partnerships
James Miller	JM	National Director of Estates and Technology
James Murray	JMU	Ormiston Trust
Paul Nye	PN	Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Ravenscroft	SK	Stone King – Item 9 only
Edward Arden	SK	Stone King – Item 9 only

Part	Discussion	ACTION
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received and accepted from WB.	
2	Minutes/Administration	
2.1	<u>Declaration of interests and Trustees interests</u> No changes declared.	
2.2	<u>Trustees</u> PH noted that NM retired on 29 August after the expiration of her term as a Principal Trustee and thanked her for her service and contribution to the Board. PH would invite applications for another Principal Trustee.	MH PH

	It was also noted that Julie Bloor had recently left OAT and PH agreed to send a note of thanks to her on behalf of the Board.	PH
2.3	<u>Minutes of Board Meeting 20 July 2017</u> The Minutes of the Board Meeting of 20 July 2017 were approved as a true record and signed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman.	PH
2.4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <u>6. Principals survey</u> Discussed further with broadening of survey questions recommended.	PN
	<u>9. Complaints Policy</u> Legal advisors had confirmed escalation structure was appropriate at local academy level. Further clarity on apparent lack of appeal process at MAT Board level and complaints process against the Trust itself to be investigated. All other matters arising had been actioned, delegated to the FOR and or SIS Committees or formed part of the meeting's agenda.	MH
3	2016/17 Results and school improvement priorities 2017-18	
3.1	NH summarised the broad results highlighting EYFS and Phonics continuing to perform above national standards; KS2 outcomes had seen an increase on 2016; KS4 had seen overall marginal gains in the year in which the new maths and English grading system had been introduced; and KS5 had seen good overall improvement and some improvement in every academy.	NH/NM
3.2	Detailed assessment and support plans at individual academy level for those requiring specific improvements was ongoing.	
3.3	Discussion included indicative Attainment 8 and Progress 8 results; the likely direction of travel from G4+ to G5+ as the standard measure in future years; national and OAT average benchmarking expectations; and appropriate balanced score cards for OAT academies which was under discussion with the Executive and would be shared with the FOR/SIS committees at a future date.	
4	Annual timetable and structure of Board papers	
4.1	MH noted the development of an annual calendar for the Board and Committees to aid general governance, together with a standard format Executive Summary for Board papers which would be reviewed by the Executive prior to future use.	NH/MH
5	Update on Estates and Technology	
5.1	JM updated the Board on a number of items including building and fire compliance including cladding surveys; capital projects; and focussing on the health & safety environment, processes and plans.	
5.2	Following discussion, the Board approved the Health & Safety Statement of Intent; the strategic objectives for the H &S Improvement Plan; and the policy and management system for implementation in academies.	

	JM was asked to ensure the scheme of delegation and wording in the various documents were fully aligned to ensure clarity on accountabilities and responsibilities throughout.	JM
6	Financial Oversight & Risk Committee Update	
6.1	PN/IB reported that ongoing discussions had successfully concluded in respect of the ESFA loan for Wodensborough/Sandon, outlining a small number of conditions on the Trust that were believed to be achievable and recommended acceptance of the loan terms which was approved.	PN
7	OAT Structure and Regional priorities update	
7.1	NM presented an update on the planned roll-out of the Regional structure following the success of the Eastern pilot, expanding on the three main priorities: to identify and harness regional capacity; provide simple, clear and impact-driven standardised reporting and structures; and to ensure opportunities for growth and staff development. Discussion included the timetable and next steps; and current DfE thinking on academy performance trajectory and categorisation.	
8	Draft OAT Strategic Priorities and Operational Plan Review	
8.1	PN referred to the previously approved strategic priorities adopted by the Board seeking discussion on whether these remained relevant. Following discussion, the Executive would re-visit the priorities taking into account the Board's comments and observations on incorporating/considering OAT's values and mission; increasing governance; making OAT fit for purpose for the future; and aligning with individual academy visions. Update requested at December Board meeting.	EXEC
9	Articles of Association	
9.1	<p>SK advised the Board that, following protracted negotiations with the DfE legal team, new proposed Articles of Association were now finalised and in agreed form for adoption.</p> <p>After discussion on the principal changes to the existing Articles, the Board proposed and approved that a written resolution be and is hereby circulated to the Members of the Company, proposing that the current Articles of Association be replaced in their entirety by the new Articles of Association (which had been approved by the DfE) as tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>After a brief adjournment, SK reported that the Members had approved and adopted the new Articles of Association and would make the necessary filings at Companies House/DfE etc.</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>SK</p>
10	Dates of next meetings	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 14th December 2017 • Thursday 15 March 2018 • Thursday 19 July 2018 	ALL
	There being no further business, the meeting closed.	
	Chairman	