

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC MINUTES

Date	:	Thursday, 1 April 2021	
Time	:	16:00	
Venue	:	Virtual via Zoom	
Present	:	Asha Choolhun	Trustee
		Carly Clarke	Trustee
		Clive-Anthony Douglas	Trustees / Chair
		Mohammed Mamun	Trustee
		Phillip Minns	Trustee / Vice-Chair
		Patricia Regis	Trustee
		John Rolfe	Trustee
		Rosemary Tehrani	Trustee
In attendance	:	Tom Canning OBE	Chief Executive Officer
		Sarah Lack	Deputy CEO
		Steven Lock	Chief Finance and Operating Officer
		Rose Nelson	Finance Specialist
		Simon Bond	Headteacher – Ravenscroft
		Lindsay Bradbury	Headteacher – Rosetta
		Tim Packham	Clerk

The Code of Conduct for Trustees requires Trustees to be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Trustees must not use their position for personal gain in business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a Trustee who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter.

Items marked * are those in which a majority of Trustees may have an interest because of some shared attribute. When considering these items, Trustees should aim to achieve a balanced view, paying particular attention to the sources of information and advice, and remind themselves of their duties as Trustees and to act in the public interest.

1. MEETING OPENING

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Nina Panayis and accepted by the Board.
- 1.3 The Clerk noted that the meeting was quorate.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS, PECUNIARY OR OTHERWISE IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest on any item on the agenda.



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3. CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP LIST

3.1 No item to report on.

4. PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

4.1 The minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday, 11 February 2021 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record.

5. MAIN BUSINESS

5.1 The Board received presentations were from Simon Bond (Headteacher: Ravenscroft Primary School) and Lindsay Bradbury (Headteacher: Rosetta Primary School) on BLM; Post Ofsted Inspection / Pre Ofsted-Inspection; and moving from Good to Outstanding. Both presentations will be made available for trustees on Governor Hub.

The CEO and the Board expressed thanks to both Headteachers for their detailed presentations.

5.2 The Board to receive the CEO's report.

The Board received the CEO's report and he presented his exec summary report. The schools have been reopened for three weeks. Attendance figures are lower than the pre lockdown figure of 96%. Some schools are 92% with some being slightly higher. The Boleyn schools are reflecting the national position. Staff morale is reflected national position too. Headteachers are identifying where the learning gaps are and the curriculum recovery will concentrate on reading, writing, maths and other curricular activities. This is being looked at holistically and there will be a full curriculum in September. In the report is a summary report from the School Improvement partner.

There have not been any Safeguarding issues reported since the last meeting. Every school has a Designated Safeguarding Governor and a Designated Safeguarding Lead

The trust was reminded of the demographic shift and a drop in birth rates.

Some of our schools are having to go down to two for entry from September for the next few years. The baby boom we once benefited from are now in secondary school.

Rosetta is in need of building work and two new projects will be coming to trustees in the autumn term. This will be self-financed using the schools reserves: a new entrance and new exit to reception area. It will also require cosmetic work following a whole-school re-wiring project.

Trustees will recall that we are a newly designated Teaching School Hub working across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Newham. We will be supporting the Early Careers Framework for new teachers and CPD for 234 schools across the East London region.

The Trust Board were updated on the Trust representation to the Education Adjudicator following a Direction Order from the Local Authority.

A brief discussion took place, and an update will be provided in due course.



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- 5.3 The Board to receive Finance update to include Management Accounts and 2020/21/22 GAG Analysis.

The finance report was received by the Board.

The February management accounts were accepted. The actual surplus is £225,849 the budget was £96315. Savings have been made through Covid, with recruitment, freezing and efficiencies. The year to date forecasted was £1,631,400 with a budgeted figure of -£1,155,776 leaving a surplus of over 475k.

All schools are doing better than budgeted. Tollgate is to be adjusted next month. (Recruitment freeze and after a recovery plan.

A very positive outcome for the trust. The budgeting process will start after Easter. Collaboration has been positive and efficiently and by July there will be a full budget proposal.

The chair thanked RN and it was noted the Trust is in a good position.

The GAG funding analysis for 2021 to 2022 shows there are some winners and losers. Some schools have seen a decrease on the number of pupils on roll. Winners are New City, Cleve and Tollgate.

The budget is focusing on increasing per pupil spend on education resources. With recruitment freeze we are not wasting money on additional salary spend. The demographic changes will be built into the budget assumptions.

- 5.4 Trustees are asked to ratify the following appointment to Local Governing Boards:

5.4.1 Shaftesbury Primary School

Marielle Valdez: Background is in Engineering but she had spent 6 months teaching computer science at a school and had done some volunteer work teaching immigrants.

5.4.2 It was noted that MV was appointed as a Governor for the LGB at Shaftesbury Primary School.


6. STANDING ITEMS

- 6.1 A Verbal update from the Chair of the Audit.

AC update the risk register will now contain an additional column showing what 'actions taken' after a risk has been identified. This will allow the committee to see what progress has been made. It will also be a living document. The Internal Scrutiny report will be a standing agenda item and the Scheme of Work will be followed up.

The CFOO explained that the Risk Register had been shared with the Audit Committee and was being recommended by said committee to the full board for ratification.

Trustees agreed the risk register unanimously.



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6.2 A Verbal update was received from the Chair of the Standards Committee.

The committee had looked at the overall attainment. Looking at the 2019 data. There will be a new EYFS framework from September. There will be a deep dive into geography across trust.

6.3 Trustee suggestions for future agenda discussions. Continue with Theme of head teachers coming forward. There are three left: Shaftesbury, Tollgate and Cleves.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 No urgent business was tabled or discussed.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 The date of the next Board Meeting will be communicated to Trustees.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 17:45pm



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