



Notes of Meeting: South West Headteacher Board

21 June 2021

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

HTB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair

- Hannah Woodhouse (RSC)

Headteacher Board (HTB) members

- Joy Tubbs (HTB)
- Steve Savory (HTB)
- Suzanne Flack (HTB)
- Brian Hooper (HTB)
- Alun Williams (HTB)
- Sally Apps (HTB)
- Michael Larsen (HTB)
- Paul Jones (HTB)

Guests

- Jackie Smith (CEO of Brunel Special Educational Needs (SEN) Multi Academy Trust (MAT))
- Rob Gasson (CEO of Wave MAT)

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings (Deputy Director)
- Matt Stevenson (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- One representation received for Bishop's Cleeve Primary Presumption Free School, **Gloucestershire**, Free school presumption – sponsor approval.

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

Presentation from Sally Apps (CLF), Rob Gasson (CEO of WAVE MAT) and Jackie Smith (CEO of Brunel SEN MAT)

- Presentation from Jackie Smith, Rob Gasson and Sally Apps about Alternative Provision, SEND and mixed trusts to HTB members. Jackie and Rob discussed the need for supporting the whole pupil and the work they have been doing in their trusts. HTB members would like to encourage Jackie and Rob to continue their leadership of SEN/AP and mixed trusts and thanked them for sharing their experiences. Jackie Smith and Rob Gasson left the meeting.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: Whether to approve Richard Huish College, **Somerset** converting to academy status and joining Richard Huish Trust.

HTB discussion:

- **Other:** HTB members noted that the college corporation has voted to convert to academy status and join the Richard Huish Trust, the MAT that it sponsors.
- **Governance:** HTB members noted that the college and the trust are undertaking a skills audit to inform how the college corporation will be reconstituted as a local governing body and fit into the existing MAT structure and discussed how membership overlap between the MAT board and college LGB should be avoided.
- **Finances:** HTB members noted that the college holds two commercial loans, which will novate to the Trust upon conversion and transfer. A discussion took place on the affordability of these loans and their potential impact on the trust.
- HTB members asked whether the trust was financially robust enough to take on the college. ESFA officials advised that the trust has a healthy reserve in proportion to its size.
- **Leadership:** HTB members considered and discussed the trust's leadership structures and school improvement function and advised that RDD and ESFA should support the trust to consider its strategy and evaluate the trust's position and school improvement impact ahead of any further growth.

RSC decision: approve with conditions.

Conditions:

- 1) New governance structure, avoiding overlap between the college LGB and the MAT board, should ideally be in place ahead of transfer, and in place during the academic year 2021-22.
- 2) The college's finance lease, relating to IT equipment, should be paid off in full before conversion and transfer.
- 3) The college's lease on student accommodation should transfer to the trust on existing terms and conditions.

Conflicts: Suzanne Flack and Brian Hooper were not present for this item and did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Project: Whether to approve a sponsor for the Bishop's Cleeve Primary Presumption Free School, **Gloucestershire**

HTB discussion:

- **Other:** HTB discussed the merits of each trust that had bid for the Free School opportunity and the LA's recommendation to approve GLA as the sponsor.
- **Governance:** HTB members noted that Trust governance is in order.
- **Leadership:** HTB members noted that Trust leadership is stable
- **Finances:** HTB members noted the Trust finances are in order.
- **School Improvement:** HTB members noted school improvement capacity at the trust, and their experience in previously opening a primary free school.

RSC decision: approve.

Conflicts: Steve Savory was not present for this item and did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

No academy opens in July 2021

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC outside of HTB meetings.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for The Chalet School, **Swindon** (Brunel SEN MAT) to increase capacity from 57 to 72 places and to build a modular classroom on-site.

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for The New Forest Church of England Primary School, **Wiltshire** (Magna Learning Partnership) to change its age range to 2-11 and add nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Manorside Academy, **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole**, (Ambitions Academy Trust) amend its age range from 4-11 to 3-11 and add nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Northleaze CofE Primary School, **North Somerset** to amend its age range from 4-11 to 3-11 and add nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the HTB meeting.

Project: Compass Point Primary School, **Bristol** (Gatehouse Green Learning Trust)

Type of decision: Significant change

Reason it was removed from the agenda: Further work was needed on the paperwork.

Project: Whether to approve a sponsor for Devon Local Authority's Presumption Special Free School, Okehampton, **Devon**

Type of decision: Free school presumption – Sponsor approval

Reason it was removed from the agenda: Further work was needed on the paperwork.

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