Notes of Meeting, West Midlands headteacher board

13 February 2020

Attendance

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

HTB members who apologised have been consulted on all projects, where available, before the meeting. This excludes items where there were conflicts. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate).

Regional school commissioner (RSC) chair

- Andrew Warren (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Kate Brunt (HTB)
- Sinead Smith (HTB)
- Mike Donohue (HTB)
- Dame Mo Brenan (HTB)
- Sajid Gulzar (HTB)
- Sir Mark Grundy (HTB)

Apologies

- Margaret Yates (HTB)

DfE senior civil servants

- Claire Mycock (Deputy Director)
- Claire Trewartha (Deputy Director)
- ESFA Representatives
General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC Update

- Temperature check of region

Discussion of projects, including decisions made by RSC with advice from HTB

All decisions are made in reference to relevant legislation and the published criteria.

Significant change

Project: Whether to approve a capacity increase with a physical expansion for Campion School (Warwickshire)

HTB discussion:

- Secondary school in Leamington Spa requesting to expand capacity from 870 to 1400 over 7 years.
- The school were one of a number that were approached by Warwickshire County Council asking them to increase to accommodate the forecasted pressures on secondary school places in the area due to larger cohorts of primary age pupils moving through to secondary.
- School educational performance, financial surplus and recent governance restructuring following on from consultations were considered by the board.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: School to be informed

Converter academy orders

Project: Disley Primary School (Cheshire East), Cheshire East, to join TRUE Learning Partnership

HTB discussion:

- The school have been a member of the Trust’s “Executive Strategic Group”. Through this they have benefited from a number of Trust efficiencies. They hope that by joining the trust they can further benefit from additional functions that they currently do not access.
- Disley have also worked closely with TTLP’s lead school for 25 years as part of a school’s partnership.
- TTLP is a trust comprised of two schools that are wanting to expand into the primary sector and incorporate their local feeder schools.
- The school was due to join the trust in January 2018 however capital works by the LA delayed this.
• By joining TTLP several services will be centralised to ensure that they can continue to financially sustain high quality staff and buildings in the long-term.
• The Trust have been working closely with ESFA who are now reassured as an SMRA was deployed to highlight potential savings.

RSC decision: Approve
Conflicts: None
Further actions required: School and Trust to be informed.

**Decisions taken between HTB meetings**

Project: Approving a sponsor match for Western Springs Primary School

HTB discussion:

• Previously taken to January HTB meeting however was deferred due to HTB members seeking additional assurance around the best fit, trust performance and process. Performance and trust level concerns have now been resolved; capacity for Perry Hall to sponsor Western Springs confirmed and the indicative plans meet the HTB concerns.

RSC decision: Approve
Conflicts: None
Further actions required: School and Sponsor to be informed.

Project: Issue an Academy Order to Endon High School, Staffordshire, and join Shaw Education Trust

HTB discussion:

• Previously taken to January HTB meeting however was deferred due to questions being raised on whether the trust had enough secondary capacity to take on an additional school.
• Further information has been provided at a meeting with the trust’s contacts, issues were discussed and addressed. Assurances were provided with clear evidence supporting their work for the future.

RSC decision: Approve
Conflicts: None
Further actions required: School and Trust to be informed.

Project: Whether to approve an increase in SEN places for Kingfisher School, Worcestershire

HTB discussion:

• Local Authority want to increase capacity from 80 to 91 as there is a shortage of special school places in the area.
• There is a large in-year deficit this financial year, however, this will decrease once pupil funding is realised which will help fund resources for the school enabling them to manage with the additional 11 pupils. There is no extra building work needed.
RSC decision: Approve
Conflicts: None
Further actions required: School to be informed.

Project: Whether to approve a capacity increase for Fairfield High School, Herefordshire

HTB discussion:
- Capacity increase from 450 to 600 funded with CIF bid. Tried to apply in 2019 however they missed the deadline.
- Increased demand in the area due to 2 new housing developments. The school’s Progress 8 is above the national average and have been rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.
- Due diligence of governance has been undertaken by project leads.

RSC decision: Approve
Conflicts: None
Further actions required: School to be informed.

Projects listed on the published draft agenda but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published agenda but not discussed at the meeting:
- Kingfisher School, Worcestershire - approved outside of Headteacher Board
- Fairfield High School, Herefordshire - to be considered outside of Headteacher Board
- Foley Infant School, Staffordshire - being considered by an alternative RSC region due to conflict with RSC in WM