



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting, East of England and North East London headteacher board

22 October 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

- Sue Baldwin (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Tom Canning (HTB)
- Brian Conway (HTB)
- Caroline Derbyshire (HTB)
- Diane Rochford (HTB)
- Al Kingsley (HTB)
- Karen Kerridge (HTB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (HTB)
- Duncan Ramsey (HTB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative
- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC update

- The Note of Meeting for the September HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- No representations have been received for any projects on this meeting's agenda.
- The Board heard a presentation on post-16 provision and challenges faced in 2020 from one of the HTB members, Caroline Derbyshire and the Director of Sixth Form within Saffron Walden County High School's senior leadership team. The RSC and Board also took time to share reflections on the first half term of the school year.

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.

Trust Changes

Project: Rise Park Infants School and Rise Park Junior School, Romford, **Havering**, to transfer from Rise Park Academy Trust to The Success for All Educational Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The Board considered the background of the voluntary transfer of Rise Park Academy Trust's academies to The Success for All Education Trust.
- The Board noted that the trust's leadership team have a range of expertise that are a good fit for the school's needs and agreed with the RSC's decision to approve this project.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Project: Mark Hall Academy, Harlow, **Essex**, to transfer from Academy Transformation Trust to Burnt Mill Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- The Board considered the background of Mark Hall Academy which was judged by Ofsted to be inadequate in March 2020 and this transfer is the outcome of RSC intervention. Following discussions with the previous trust it was agreed that the academy should join a new trust.
- HTB members discussed the potential sponsor options considered based on criteria set by the RSC office, and BMAT was identified as the most suitable trust match.
- There was consideration of trust capacity to take on this academy, as BMAT have taken on a number of RI schools. However, the trust has demonstrated a strong leadership capacity and a clear drive to identify improvement needs and the ability to quickly make the necessary changes.

- The HTB agreed that the trust was the best opportunity to secure improvement for the academy and supported the RSC's decision to approve this project.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Sponsor Application

Project: Newham Community Schools Trust, **Newham**, to become a sponsor.

HTB discussion:

- The Board reflected on the previous concerns they had on the trust's governance structure in July's HTB meeting. It was noted that the trust had taken the RSC's feedback on board membership and structure and worked on making the necessary improvements.
- HTB members noted the changes made from the trust's governance restructuring. HTB members believed that having only five core trustees may not be sustainable and were supportive of the trust's plan to increase these numbers.
- As the key concern has now been addressed, the HTB supported the RSC's decision to approve this sponsor application.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Sponsored Route

Project: Eastlea Community School, Canning Town, **Newham**, to be sponsored by Newham Community Schools Trust.

HTB discussion:

- Following on from the previous item, the RSC also approved the application for Eastlea to join Newham Community Schools Trust. This was due to the trust's governance changes, their strong understanding of school improvement and existing work with the school.
- The HTB supported the RSC's decision and had no concerns.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust and school to be informed of RSC's decision.

Significant Changes

Project: Templefields Multi-Academy Trust to move Harlowbury Primary School, Harlow, **Essex**, to another site and expand from one form of entry to two forms of entry.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Templefields Multi-Academy Trust's proposal to relocate and expand the school to an adjacent site. The HTB acknowledged a large new housing is in development in the school's catchment area resulting in an increased demand of pupil places.
- The HTB had no concerns and supported with the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.