



Department
for Education

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

25 February 2021

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

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative

Apologies

- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC update

- The Note of Meeting for the January HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- No representations have been received for any projects on this meeting's agenda.
- The RSC and Board took time for reflections on the latest government announcements and looking ahead to the future following school reopening.
- The Board received a presentation regarding self-evaluations of Multi-Academy Trusts from HTB member Duncan Ramsey.

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 Changes

Project: Affinity Multi Academy Trust to increase the number of classrooms and teaching space in order to provide an additional 60 places in Meadowgate Academy, **Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**.

HTB discussion:

- The Board heard the background to Affinity Multi Academy Trust's application to expand Meadowgate Academy by an additional 60 places to meet local demand.
- The HTB noted that the application received full support from the LA and local community, and the trust's finances and leadership were strong enough to support this change.
- There was a question over the numbers on the governance board and encouraged a discussion with the trust about wider engagement and future growth plans.
- The HTB had no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Creative Education Trust to add a nursery provision to Wroughton Infant Academy, **Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.**

HTB discussion:

- The Board heard the background to Creative Education Trust's proposal to add a nursery in Wroughton Infant Academy. This is following a privately run nursery on the same site which recently closed, and the trust aims to offer this provision going forward.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: John Milton Academy Trust to add a SEN unit to Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School, **Stowmarket, Suffolk.**

HTB discussion:

- The Board heard the background to John Milton Academy Trust's proposal to add specialist units for pupils who need additional support with Cognition and Learning in Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School.
- The Board expressed concerns over the trust's reported finances, unofficial partnership status with SENDAT, Ofsted's RI judgement of Stowupland High School and uncertainty over track record with SEND provision.
- The RSC wanted assurances on finances by way of an ESFA school resource management adviser (SRMA) visit, the trust to formalise their partnership and arrangements with SENDAT by service level agreement, and for the trust leaders to review the outcomes and progress of Stowupland and the SEN unit at Mendlesham.
- The RSC decided that this application should not progress until assurances were made, the HTB agreed and supported this decision.

RSC decision: Decline

Conflicts: None.

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

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

Project: John Milton Academy Trust to add a SEN unit to Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School, **Stowmarket, Suffolk**.

Update:

- The team has worked with the trust since the HTB meeting and has provided the RSC with the required assurances.
- The trust has supplied an accurate budget forecast which indicates a financially stable position.
- The RSC has also been notified of a formal partnership arrangement between the trust and SENDAT and the strengthening of the trust's senior leadership and governance which is having a positive impact.
- Following receipt of these assurances on finances, school improvement capacity and governance the RSC decided to approve this project.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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