



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

20 May 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

- Carol Gray

Headteacher Board (HTB) members

- Andrew Child
- Inderjit Sandhu
- Paul West
- Peter Bell
- Anne Martin
- Paul Stone

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives
- Kelly Hughes

Representations Received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting

General Discussion Points

- Introductions/RSC Update

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Riddings Junior School, Derbyshire, to join Embark Federation.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good May 2018.

The school would benefit from the support and stability provided by joining an academy trust.

The school has strong alignment with the ethos of Embark Federation. Joining the trust will enable the staff to further their CPD opportunities.

The trust has experience of working with disadvantaged pupils which will be further strengthened by Riddings Junior School joining the academy trust, which has recently strengthened its central team.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the Embark Federation and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Lutton St Nicholas Primary School, Lincolnshire, to join Keystone Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good June 2016.

The school is federated with Gedney Church End Primary School.

Both schools have been working with Keystone Academy Trust for the last two years.

By the joining the academy trust, it would formalise and strengthen their pre-existing relationship.

The performance data is below average, and by joining an academy trust it would provide more school improvement opportunities.

Given the size of both schools, it was considered that they would both benefit from joining an academy trust and Keystone Academy Trust is considered to be a good match.

Keystone Academy Trust has recently had a School Resource Management Advisor and the trust has recently expanded its Central Team.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the Keystone Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Gedney Church End Primary School, Lincolnshire, to join Keystone Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good June 2016.

The school is federated with Lutton St Nicholas Primary School. Both schools have been working with Keystone Academy Trust for the last two years.

By the joining the academy trust, it would formalise and strengthen their pre-existing relationship.

Current numbers on roll and capacity of the school were discussed.

The performance data is below average and joining an academy trust would provide more school improvement opportunities.

Given the size of both schools, it was considered that they would both benefit from joining an academy trust and Keystone Academy Trust is considered to be a good match.

Keystone Academy Trust has recently had a School Resource Management Advisor and the trust has recently expanded its Central Team.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the Keystone Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Bishopthorpe Infant School, York to join South York Multi Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good January 2017.

The school feels the trust is a good match – the local junior school is already in the trust and is a feeder school for a secondary school also in the trust.

The board considered this a good strategic move in order to align all schools.

As of September 2021, the school will reduce its PAN from 60 to 50, due to the demographic of the locality. However, this was not considered a barrier to approval.

The structure of the academy trust was discussed.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the South York Multi Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Points discussed in relation to a free school's sponsor status.

Project: The new Dinnington SEMH Free School, Rotherham – discussion to consider sponsor match.

HTB discussion:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council are proposing to establish a new special school for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties in the Rotherham area.

The new Free School will be for pupils aged 7 to 16 years and have 125 places. The school will open with all places filled, as pupils are currently attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in the local authority. The new school will support increasing demand for pupils with Social Emotion and Mental Health needs in the borough.

The local authority's preferred sponsor is Wellspring Academy Trust.

The board considered the trust to be a good match for school.

The strength of financial management and governance at the Wellspring Academy Trust, the trust's financial health and its ability to manage potential financial risks associated with opening a new school were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andy Child did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the trust and local authority of decision.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: Captains Close Primary School, Leicestershire, to discuss whether to approve an increase in the school's Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit from 10 to 12 places.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good November 18.

The proposal is part of the local Special Educational Needs and Disabilities strategy and has the support of Leicestershire local authority. A consultation has already taken place, and no negative comments were received.

No building work or capital expenditure is required to accommodate the additional two places. The unit's expansion would allow for an extra teacher and pupils would benefit from smaller class sizes.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust and impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Paul Stone did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

Project: Ivanhoe College, Leicester, to discuss whether to retrospectively approve an increase in the physical capacity of the school from 949 to 990.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good October 2018.

The school has incrementally increased capacity in previous years, all with the support of the local authority.

The school is due to transfer to LiFE Multi Academy Trust on the 1st July 2021.

LiFE Multi Academy Trust are keen to resolve the current capacity figure before the school's transfer is complete.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust and impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.