



Notes of Meeting: NWLSC Headteacher Board

Wednesday 30 September 2020

Attendance

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

HTB members who sent apologies for absence 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

- Dame Kate Dethridge

Headteacher Board (HTB) members in attendance

- Sarah Bennett
- Dame Yasmin Bevan
- Dame Sue Bourne
- Sarah Brown
- Dr Jamie Clarke
- Claire Robins

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Jo Saxton – Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State for Education and Minister for the School system.

DfE senior civil servants

- Jo Thomas

General discussion points

- The August HTB meeting notes were agreed at the meeting.
- A conflict of interest was presented for Dame Yasmin Bevan on item 1.5. Dame Yasmin left the virtual meeting during this discussion.

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

1.1 Whether to approve the age range change for Clifton All Saints Academy, Central Bedfordshire

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the governance structure and finances of the academy.
- HTB members discussed the impact of the transition of the children from/to the academy.
- HTB members discussed the potential for the academy to join a MAT.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

1.2 Whether to approve the age range change for Langford Village Academy, Central Bedfordshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances of the academy.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

1.3 Whether to approve the age range change for Meppershall Church of England Academy, Central Bedfordshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the academy's capacity to take on extra year groups.
- HTB members discussed potential for the academy to join a MAT.
- HTB members discussed the need to seek assurances from the academy on the potential issues.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

1.4 Whether to approve the age range change for Raynsford Church of England Academy, Central Bedfordshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the governance and finances of the academy.
- HTB members discussed the potential for the academy to join a MAT.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

1.5 Whether to approve Central Bedfordshire Council's preferred sponsor for the new free school in Houghton Regis.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed capacity concerns in the Houghton Regis area
- HTB members discussed the number of children being transferred.
- HTB members discussed the support options for Houghton Regis if the project were to be approved.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Dame Yasmin Bevan.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

Converter Academy Order

1.6 Whether to approve an Academy Order for Sywell Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School to join Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET), Northamptonshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the need for Sywell Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary school to join a MAT.
- HTB members discussed the performance of other schools in PDET.
- HTB members discussed the primary expertise that PDET could bring to the school.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

1.7 Whether to approve an Academy Order for The Emmbrook School, Wokingham, to

join The Circle Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the number and rate of schools joining The Circle Trust.
- HTB members discussed the performance results of The Emmbrook School.
- HTB members discussed the other schools nearby in Wokingham, who are not part of a trust.
- HTB members discussed the finances of Wokingham Local Authority.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

1.8 Discuss the transfer of Sir Simon Milton Westminster (SSMW) UTC, Westminster, to either South Bank Academies Trust or Aldridge Education Trust, or whether to pursue closure discussions.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals submitted by South Bank Academies Trust and Aldridge Education Trust.
- HTB members discussed the finances and financial management of SSMW UTC.
- HTB members discussed the governance structure at both Aldridge Education Trust and South Bank Academies Trust.
- HTB members discussed SSMW UTC's performance.

RSC decision: RSC decision deferred.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: None.

1.9 Whether to approve the SAT to MAT application from Michaela Community School, Brent.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the governance structure of the potential new MAT.
- HTB members discussed what financial support the potential new MAT will need.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Seek further information on the governance structure, separation between members and trustees.

Decisions made between HTB meetings

- N/A

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

- N/A