



Notes of Meeting: NWLSC Headteacher Board

Thursday 17 December 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

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Jo Thomas

General discussion points

- The November HTB meeting notes were agreed at the meeting.
- There were no conflicts of interests for the Headteacher Board members.

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.

Sponsor Application

Whether to approve an application for Freman College SAT, Hertfordshire, to establish the Rib Valley Trust and become a sponsor MAT (linked with item below).

Converter Academy Order

Whether to approve an Academy Order for Edwinstree Church of England Middle School, Hertfordshire, to join the proposed Rib Valley Trust.

HTB discussed the above items together:

- HTB members considered the experience of the board at Freman College SAT.
- HTB members discussed the performance of both Freman College and Edwinstree CofE Middle School.
- HTB members discussed the finances of Freman College SAT.
- HTB members felt there was a need for a more detailed school improvement plan in respect of Edwinstree CofE Middle School.

RSC decision: Decline both items.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision. The RSC has asked to see an updated school improvement plan in respect of Edwinstree Church of England Middle School.

Converter Academy Order

Whether to approve an application for Henlow Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to become a sponsor MAT – (linked with item below)

Trust Change

If Henlow Academy's application is approved, whether to approve Meppershall Church of England Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to join a MAT with Henlow Academy.

HTB discussed the above items together:

- HTB members discussed the historic performance data of Henlow Academy.
- HTB members discussed the need to strengthen the skills of the trust board and their scheme of delegation.
- HTB members discussed the finances of Henlow Academy.

RSC decision: Approve both items.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision, with a condition to see the final scheme of delegation.

Converter Academy Order

Whether to approve an Academy Order for Highwood Primary School, Hertfordshire, to join The Elliot Foundation Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the educational performance of the current schools within The Elliot Foundation Academy Trust.
- HTB members considered the need for this school to have the support of a trust.
- HTB members discussed the distance between Highwood Primary and the other schools within the trust.
- HTB members discussed the school improvement model of the trust.
- HTB members discussed the need for a clearer understanding on the trust's impact.

RSC decision: Decision deferred.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Whether to approve an Academy Order for Redwell Primary School, Northamptonshire, to join Nene Education Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the financial and resource management of Nene Education Trust.
- HTB members discussed the governance structure of the trust in respect of its support to its primary schools.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

Whether to approve the transfer of Kingsthorpe College, Northamptonshire, to join what would be Orbis Education Trust (Southfield School for Girls).

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the risks of another small MAT in the area.
- HTB members considered the potential growth of Orbis Education Trust.
- HTB members discussed the finances and school improvement strategy of Orbis Educational Trust.

- HTB members were made aware of representations that had been sent to the RSC.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Sponsor Application

Whether to approve the sponsor application for the Sikh Academies Trust, Slough.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the governance structure of Sikh Academies Trust.
- HTB members discussed the trust's finances.
- HTB members discussed the trust's school improvement strategy.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

Whether to approve the SAT to MAT application from The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Kensington and Chelsea.

Converter Academy Order

Whether to approve an Academy Order for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Kensington and Chelsea, to join The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.

HTB discussed the above items together:

- HTB members discussed the strength of both these applications.
- HTB members discussed the finances of the Trust.
- HTB members were made aware of the long-term plans of the Trust and diocese.

RSC decision: Approve both items.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Whether to approve the application from Manor School, Brent, to take on additional 24 pupils onto satellite site at LA's request.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members considered the financial implications of the temporary expansion.
- HTB members discussed the strengths of the project.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Decisions made between HTB meetings

- Whether to approve the expansion of Bardwell School, **Oxfordshire**, and increase the PAN from 84 to 100 to meet the increasing demand for special school places in Oxfordshire.

RSC decision: Approve.

- Whether to approve Millbrook Primary School (Vale) **Oxfordshire**, to expand its age range from 3-11 to 2-11yrs. This project was deferred by 25 November HTB pending clarification of the trust's school improvement strategy for Millbrook Primary School.

RSC decision: Approve.

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

- N/A