



## Notes of Meeting: NWLSC Headteacher Board

Thursday 22 October 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 September HTB meeting notes were agreed at the meeting.
- Claire Robins had a conflict of interest for item 1.1. Claire left the meeting for this item.

## 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.

### Converter Academy Order

- 1.1** Whether to approve Academy Orders for the following: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Hertford), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Bishop's Stortford), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Waltham Cross), St Cross Catholic Primary School, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to join Lea Valley MAT.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the trust's capacity to take on the schools.
- HTB members discussed the finances of the trust.
- HTB members discussed the board of trustees scheme of delegation.
- HTB members highlighted more detail was needed on how the trust could improve each school.

RSC decision: Approved in principle, subject to conditions.

Conflicts: Claire Robins.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision and the conditions to provide an updated scheme of delegation and trust structure.

### Converter Academy Order

- 1.2** Whether to approve an Academy Order for Roman Fields, **Hertfordshire**, to join James Marks Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members considered the commissioning of future places into the trust.
- HTB members discussed the finances of Roman Fields.
- HTB members discussed the trust board structure and governance.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision. School is to have a SRMA visit.

## Converter Academy Order

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

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the distance between the school and the trust.
- HTB members discussed the school's performance and Ofsted results.
- HTB members discussed the need for a school improvement plan for the school.
- HTB members discussed the governance of the trust.
- HTB members considered primary school representation in Hertfordshire MATs.

RSC decision: Deferred.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Request from the trust further evidence of their school improvement plan for the school.

## Converter Academy Order

- 1.4** Whether to approve an Academy Order for Northhill Church of England Voluntary Aided Lower School, **Central Bedfordshire**, to join Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust.

## Sponsor Route

- 1.5** Whether to approve the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust as the sponsor Trust for Ravensden Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, **Bedford**.

Items 1.4 and 1.5 are linked items as they concern projects for Diocese of St Albans MAT, therefore both these items were discussed together.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the trust's governance board and whether there was a need for greater legal and financial expertise.
- HTB members discussed the distance between the schools and the trust.
- HTB members discussed the need for a more detailed improvement plan.

RSC decision for item 1.4: Approve.

RSC decision for item 1.5: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision. Request Diocese of St Albans MAT to produce more detailed action improvement plan.

## Converter Academy Order

- 2.1 Whether to approve an Academy Order for Khalsa Primary School, **Slough**, to form a Single Academy Trust called the Sikh Academies Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members highlighted the strengths of this project.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform the parties of the RSC decision.

## Trust Change

- 2.2 Whether to approve Gosford Hill School (SAT), **Oxfordshire**, transferring to River Learning Trust (MAT).

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the growth rate of the MAT.
- HTB members discussed the finances of the MAT.
- HTB members highlighted the need for further detail on the action and improvement plan from the trust.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further Actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision. Request further information on the MAT's action and improvement plan.

## Decisions made between HTB meetings

N/A

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

N/A