



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting: NWLSC Headteacher Board

Wednesday 24 March 2021

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

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

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Sarah Bennett (HTB Member)

DfE senior civil servants

- Jo Thomas, Deputy Director, NWLSC

Representations received

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

General discussion points

- Temperature check and updates from Board members.
- The February HTB meeting notes were agreed.
- It was highlighted there was one conflict of interest for Claire Robins for item 1.1 – Claire Robins left the 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.

North Sub-Region

Converter Academy Order

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve the Academy Order for Skyswood Primary and Nursery School, **Hertfordshire**, to join Alban Academies Trust.

HTB discussion:

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

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Claire Robins.

Further actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

Project: Whether to approve the transfer of The Crabtree Academy Trust, **Hertfordshire**, to Ivy Learning Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances of the Ivy Learning Trust.
- HTB members discussed the educational performance at the schools currently within Ivy Learning Trust.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

West Sub-Region

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

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

Project: Whether to approve **Buckinghamshire** Local Authority's preferred trust for the new free school, Kingsbrook Secondary.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the educational and financial expertise on the board at Insignis Academy Trust (IAT).
- HTB members discussed trust's school improvement strategy.
- HTB members considered the trust's capacity and finances.

RSC decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision. Conditions: Ensure IAT's governance structure is in line with DFE guidelines, and appoint a member with SEND expertise onto the trust board.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant change application.

Project: Whether to approve the significant change application to reduce the PAN at Bayards Hill Primary School, **Oxfordshire**.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances of Community Schools Alliance Trust (CSAT).
- HTB members considered the support CSAT are receiving from River Learning Trust (RLT).
- HTB members discussed the proposed cost savings of this project.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

London Sub-region

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

Project: Whether to give in-principle approval for the transfer of five TBAP AP academies: Beachcroft AP Academy (**Westminster**), Latimer AP Academy (**Kensington & Chelsea**), Courtyard AP Academy (**Hammersmith & Fulham**), The Bridge AP Academy (**Hammersmith & Fulham**), TBAP 16-19 Academic AP Academy (**Hammersmith & Fulham**) to Ormiston Academies Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances and expertise of Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT).
- HTB members discussed potential challenges with OAT taking on AP academies.
- HTB members discussed the growth strategy of OAT.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform parties of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant change application.

Project: Whether to approve the significant change application to expand the age range and physical expansion of Wood End Academy (SAT), **Ealing**.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members considered the finances at Wood End Academy.
- HTB members discussed the governance expertise on the trust board.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform parties of RSC decision.

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

Project: Whether to approve the significant change request at Moorcroft school (The Eden Academy) **Hillingdon**, to increase capacity and add a satellite site (Sunshine House) from September 2021.

RSC Decision: Approve.

Project: Whether to approve the significant change request for Grangewood school (The Eden Academy) **Hillingdon**, to increase capacity and add a satellite site (Sunshine House) from September 2021.

RSC Decision: Approve.

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

None