



Notes of Meeting: North-West London South Central

26 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

- 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

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

- The April HTB meeting notes were agreed at the meeting.
- HTB members agreed there were conflicts of interest for Jamie Clarke (item 1.3) and Claire Robins (item 1.5 and 1.6) – Jamie and Claire left the meeting during these discussions.

North Sub-Region

Trust Change

Project: Whether to give in-principle approval for the transfer of five Sharnbrook Academy Federation's (SAF) academies, Bedford, to Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT).

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed performance results of the SAF academies.
- HTB members discussed the finances of both SAF and CMAT.
- HTB members discussed the governance structure and capacity at CMAT.
- HTB members discussed the School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) report which was provided just before the meeting.
- HTB members expressed the need for a school improvement plan for the under-performing SAF academies.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision. CMAT to send through a school improvement plan for Sharnbrook Academy.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve Queen's Park Academy (SAT), Bedford, to transfer to Advantage Schools (MAT).

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances of Queen's Park Academy.
- HTB members discussed potential forecast of pupil place numbers coming into Advantage Schools.
- HTB members discussed the governance structure at Advantage Schools.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve Stantonbury International, **Milton Keynes**, to transfer to Tove Learning Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members expressed the need for this school to join a strong MAT.
- HTB members discussed the school improvement plan and how it would be carried out.
- HTB members discussed the makeup of the board of trustees and the need for more educational expertise.
- HTB members were assured that consultation took place, and the details of the listening period were discussed.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Jamie Clarke.

Further actions required: Inform trusts of decision.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary application made by West Herts Community Free School Trust (Ascot Road Community Free School, Jupiter Community Free School & Lanchester Community Free School), **Hertfordshire**, to transfer their academies to the Danes Educational Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the finances of West Herts Community Free School Trust.
- HTB members expressed the need for a school improvement plan for Jupiter Community Free School.
- HTB members discussed capacity at Dane Educational Trust.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform schools of decision. RSC to see school improvement plan for Jupiter Community Free School.

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Project: Whether to approve the Local Authority's preferred sponsor for Buntingford Free School, Hertfordshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the distance between Buntingford Free School and Scholars Education Trust schools.
- HTB members discussed the governance at Scholars Education Trust, and the capacity of the education team leading delivery of a first school.
- HTB members discussed Hertfordshire Local Authority's assessment of the application.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Claire Robins.

Further actions required: Inform trust of decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the application of a physical expansion made by Adeyfield Academy, Hertfordshire.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the performance results at Adeyfield Academy.
- HTB members expressed the need for Atlas Multi Academy Trust's governance structure to be updated.
- HTB members discussed the Trust's record of school improvement.
- HTB members expressed the need for further evidence of school improvement, due to no Ofsted grading.

RSC decision: Defer.

Conflicts: Claire Robins.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision.

West Sub- Region

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the application of Holmer Green Senior School, **Buckinghamshire**, to reduce the size of their Alternative Resource Provision from 26 to 20.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members were satisfied with the project proposal and had no further follow up discussion.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision.

London Sub-Region

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the application by Fern House School, **Enfield**, to extend their age limit to include KS1 and become a full primary special school.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the governance structure at Enfield Learning Trust.
- HTB members discussed the financial expertise on the trust board.
- HTB members discussed the Ofsted monitoring visit report.

RSC decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to agree to the merger of Cuckoo Hall Academy and Woodpecker Hall Academy, **Enfield**, into a 4FE school, to be known as Woodpecker Hall Academy.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed the educational performance of both Cuckoo Hall Academy and Woodpecker Hall Academy.
- HTB members discussed the skills set on the governance board at North Star Community Trust.
- HTB members discussed the school improvement plans for both schools.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform schools of decision.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

Project: Queensmill School (Hammersmith and Fulham) will be joining Queen Charlotte Education Special Trust on 1 June.

HTB discussion:

- No comments or objections to this project proceeding.

Further actions required: No action required.

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC outside of HTB meetings.

Project: To approve Swakeleys School for Girls retrospective significant change to increase capacity to 1550 places.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school of decision.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

Project: Whether to approve the physical expansion of Hammersmith Academy, Hammersmith & Fulham.

Type of decision: Significant Change.

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Papers not provided in time due to continuing to seek policy advice over the correct process for the decision.