



Notes of Meeting: North-West London South Central

11 August 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

Advisory Board (AB) members

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

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

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 July AB meeting notes were agreed at the meeting.
- The Advisory Board confirmed if any conflicts of interest. These are indicated under the relevant item of discussion.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary application by Ursula Taylor C of E School (SAT), **Bedford**, to join Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust (DSAMAT).

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the finances of both the SAT and DSAMAT.
- AB members discussed the SAT's performance data and school improvement plan.
- AB members discussed DSAMAT's governance and whether there was a need to review the mix of expertise of board members.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school and trust of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the significant change requests from Brandles Academy, **Hertfordshire**, for two additional classrooms, adjustments to an existing classroom, and increase capacity from 54 to 61 from September 2021, growing to 70 during 2021-22.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the school improvement plan for Brandles Academy.
- AB members discussed the outcomes of the external review commissioned by Larwood Special Academy Trust.
- AB members discussed the governance of the trust and the need for it to be in line with the Academy Trust Handbook.
- AB members considered the need for urgent special educational places in the LA.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school and trust of RSC decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the significant change request for Fulbrook Middle School, **Central Bedfordshire**, to change the age range (and PAN) as part of the Local Authority's move to a two-tier system, from September 2022.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance and expertise of the Fulbrook Academy Trust Board.
- AB members discussed the Local Authority's strategy for moving its schools to a two-tier system.
- AB members discussed what strategic support and expertise the school had for KS4 education.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the significant change application to remove the nursery provision at Kingswood Primary Academy, **North Northamptonshire**, and amend the age range from 3-11 to 4-11, from September 2021.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the pupil capacity of Kingswood Primary Academy.
- AB members discussed the finances of Greenwood Academies Trust.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary transfer of Desborough College Academy Trust (SAT), **Windsor & Maidenhead**, to Pioneer Educational Trust.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the leadership and governance at Pioneer Educational Trust.
- AB members discussed the trust's finances and financial expertise.
- AB members discussed the need for a clear school improvement plan.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary transfer request of the three academies in Berkshire Schools Trust (BST), **Reading**, to Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST).

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed ODST's school improvement work and support to BST schools.
- AB members discussed the performance results of current schools within ODST.
- AB members discussed the ODST's governance structure and the need for it to be in line with the Academy Trust Handbook.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the phased expansion of The Avenue School Special Needs Academy, **Reading**, to occupy sections previously shared with Local Authority council offices and create a satellite class in a mainstream school in Reading.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance at The Avenue Special School Trust and the need for it to be in line with Academy Trust Handbook.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Dame Sue Bourne.

Further actions required: Inform the school of the RSC decision.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Stopsley High School, **Luton**, to Middlesex Learning Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Northill Church of England VA Lower School, **Central Bedfordshire**, to Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Field End Junior School, **Hillingdon**, to Vanguard Learning Trust.

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Hermitage Primary School, **Hillingdon**, to Vanguard Learning Trust.

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, **Kensington and Chelsea**, to The St John Southworth Catholic Academies Trust.

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Dundale Primary School and Nursery, **Hertfordshire**, to Ridgeway Learning Partnership

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Garden Fields Junior Mixed and Infant School, **Hertfordshire**, to Alban Academies Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Cross Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Mary's Catholic School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: No issues were raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

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

Project: Whether to approve the retrospective application of St Peter's Church of England Middle School to increase its PAN from 60 to 90 (2FE to 3FE), **Windsor & Maidenhead**.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform school and trust of the RSC decision.

Project: Whether to approve the application from Bishop Stopford School (SAT), **North Northamptonshire**, to amend the school's admissions criteria due to the covid 19 pandemic.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the SAT of the RSC decision.

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

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the HTB meeting.

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary application by Sandhurst School, Bracknell Forest, to join The Corvus Learning Trust.

Type of decision: Converter Academy Order.

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further time needed to review evidence before taking the project to the Advisory Board.

© Crown copyright 2021