

Notes of Meeting: South West Advisory Board

14 February 2022

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible have 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

- Hannah Woodhouse

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Brian Hooper
- Sally Apps
- Steve Savory
- Michael Larsen
- Alun Williams
- Paul Jones
- Joy Tubbs

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Suzanne Flack

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings (Deputy Director)
- Matthew Stevenson (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- 12 representations: Peak Academy approval of new sponsor

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside the corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

RSC Update

- AB members were provided a strategic update on Levelling Up and the Schools White Paper by Hannah Woodhouse and Matthew Stevenson
 - AB members were updated on Future DfE, the Department's restructure, and the impact on Advisory Board elections
- AB members were thanked for their continuing support for the rest of the academic year

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve King Edward VI Community College, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Education South West

AB discussion:

Governance:

- AB members discussed the proposed governance structure.

School Improvement:

- AB members noted it may be beneficial for the trust to have a review of governance expertise with a focus on school improvement.

Other:

- AB members acknowledged that this is the last remaining Local Authority maintained secondary school in South Devon.
- The ethos and values of Education South West were an important consideration for the school converting.

RSC decision: Approve with Conditions

Conditions:

- Education South West to appoint a National Leader of Governance to undertake a review of the trust's governance structures

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Beaford Community Primary and Nursery School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining TEAM Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

Other:

- A recent Ofsted inspection which highlighted support provided by the trust.
- The challenges of a small trust realising economies of scale and sharing best practice.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Bolham Community Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Ventrus Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

School Improvement:

- AB members commented that the trust has demonstrated how they have strengthened the impact of their school improvement work

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Robert Le Kyng Primary School, **Swindon** converting to academy status and joining the Blue Kite Multi Academy Trust

Finance:

- An ESFA official provided an update on working with the trust to improve financial forecasts.

Governance:

- AB members discussed the transition of the existing Local Governing Body

RSC decision: Approve

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Project: Whether to approve St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School, Broadway, **Dorset** converting to academy status and joining the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust

AB discussion:

School Improvement:

- AB members discussed the trust's SI strategy and SI capacity.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Joy Tubbs, Alun Williams, Paul Jones

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Cabot Primary School, **Bristol** converting to academy status and joining Excalibur Academies Trust

AB discussion:

No concerns

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust.

Sponsor Route

Points discussed in relation to sponsor status.

Project: Whether to approve Portesham Church of England Primary School, **Dorset** joining The First Federation Trust

AB discussion:**School Improvement:**

- AB members discussed school improvement, benefit of additional capacity in the area but also the distance between First Federation Trust and Portesham

RSC decision: Approve

- **Conflicts:** Paul Jones, Steve Savory

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the local authority and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Westwood-with-Iford Primary School, **Wiltshire** joining Palladian Academy Trust

AB discussion:**Governance:**

- AB members commented on the composition and diversity of skills of the Trust board and were pleased that the existing relationship between the Trust and the school, reinforced through the interim support that Palladian are providing, will be formalised through sponsorship.

RSC decision: Approve

- **Conflicts:** Sally Apps

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the local authority and trust.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, **Bristol City of** (The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Francis Catholic Primary School (dAO), **North Somerset** (The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, **North Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph and St Teresa Catholic Primary School, **Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, **Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, **Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Gilda's Catholic Primary School, **Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, **Somerset** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: English Bicknor Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (Severn Federation Academy Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Greenmeadow Primary School, **Swindon** (The Blue Kite Academy Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: The Purbeck School, **Dorset** (Wessex Multi Academy Trust)

AB discussion:

- Opening date 1 March 2022
- No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Trust Change

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

Project: Whether to approve a new sponsor trust for Peak Academy, **Gloucestershire**

AB discussion:

Governance:

- AB members asked for assurance about the stability of the current leadership arrangements at Peak.

School Improvement:

- AB members discussed the recommended trust's school improvement model.
- AB members were made aware of Reach South's positive track record of school improvement outside of the Gloucester area.

Other:

- AB members acknowledged the representations received from staff and the local community
- AB members stressed the importance of stability for pupils throughout this transfer process as Peak Academy supports pupils with SEMH.
- AB members acknowledged that there is scope for Reach South to establish a wider presence within the Gloucestershire area

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Project: Whether to approve the following three academies from Estuaries Multi Academy Trust transferring to Osprey Learning Trust to form Ivy Learning Partnership:

- Newton Abbot College, **Devon**
- Dawlish College, **Devon**
- Starcross Primary School, **Devon**

AB discussion:

Governance:

- AB members discussed the proposed governance structure.

School Improvement:

- AB members discussed the SI strategy with the suggestion of engaging with some external advice.

RSC decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions:

- Ivy Learning Partnership appoints a National Leader of Governance to review the trust's proposed governance arrangements and advise the trust on designing an effective governance structure.
- Ivy appoints an external school improvement partner (an NLE or system-leader) with experience of both primary and secondary phases to support the development and implementation of the trust's SI Strategy.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Project: Whether to approve Lethbridge Primary School (SAT), **Swindon** transferring to the Blue Kite Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

No concern

RSC decision: Approve

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Project: Whether to approve Westlea Primary School (SAT), **Swindon** transferring to Brunel SEN Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

No concern

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts:

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change at Chumleigh Community College, **Devon** to increase capacity from 639 to 750

Decision type: Significant Change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change at Lostwithiel School, **Cornwall** to lower age range from 3-11 to 2-11

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust.

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 AB meeting.

Project: Whether to approve the following five academies from Greenwood Tree Academy Trust transferring to Wessex Multi Academy Trust:

- St Mary's Church of England Middle School, Puddletown, **Dorset**
- Frome Valley CofE VA First School, **Dorset**
- Milborne St Andrew First School, **Dorset**
- Piddle Valley Church of England First School, **Dorset**
Puddletown Church of England First School, **Dorset**

Type of decision: Trust change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Necessary papers were not ready.

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