

Notes of Meeting: Lancashire & West Yorkshire Advisory Board

19th May 2022

Attendance

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

AB 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

- Vicky Beer (RSC)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Duncan Jacques
- Jonathan Nichols
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Julian Appleyard
- Julie Bradley

Apologies

- Chris Melia
- Karen Bramwell

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives

Representations received

- 1; Discussion to consider The MFG Academies Trust, Kirklees, to transfer to Great Heights Academy Trust. & Discussion to consider The Brooksbank School, Calderdale, transfer options, Trust Change

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

General Discussion Points

- RSC provided updated on the delivery of the Schools White Paper (SWP) ambitions, key priorities in the region and transition to Regions Group.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Buckton Vale Primary School, Tameside, to convert and join Victorious Academies Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this was sensible proposal
- No financial concerns regarding trust

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Augustine's RC High School, Lancashire, to convert and join Romero Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board were happy to support this proposal
- The board reflected on the positive working relationship which already exists between the school and trust
- No financial concerns

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Clare's Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Our Lady and St Edward Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to support the conversion and union of these 7 primary schools to form Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Recommendation of SRMA to be deployed as a supportive measure.
- The board also recommended that the trust should review and strengthen their key strategic priorities at both school and trust level.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Sponsored Route

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

Project: Discussion to consider Faith Primary School, Liverpool, to convert and join Liverpool Joint Catholic and CofE Academy Trust

Reason for Academy Order: Ofsted Category 4

AB discussion:

- The Board support this sponsored route and agreed this is a great opportunity to develop joint faith trusts.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and Trust of decision

Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

Project: Discussion to consider the sponsor application for Accord Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The Board agreed that they are happy to approve this sponsor application.
- There is a need for more sponsors in this area and this will improve the capacity in Wakefield.
- ESFA have no concerns and are happy to support this project.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

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

Project: Discussion on a trust to take forward a Manchester Presumption Free School

AB discussion:

- The Board agreed The Laurus Trust as the sponsor for this project is a good fit due to their growth strategy and presence in Stockport and Manchester.
- This single form entry 0-11 free school is planned to open in 2023 to nursery and reception children. The Laurus Trust has 7 schools with a further 2 pipeline free schools and a strong performance track record.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Karen Bramwell was not present for this discussion

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and Trust of decision

Trust Change

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

Project: Discussion to consider The MFG Academies Trust, Kirklees, to transfer to Great Heights Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the representation received
- Board members agreed that this is a beneficial and sensible project to move forward, following a long period of consideration.
- For governance, guidance and support is required on the levels, skills and expertise required.
- ESFA advised this is a financially positive project and agreed SRMA deployment is recommended to guide the trust on how to leverage efficiencies.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider The Brooksbank School, Calderdale, transfer options

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the representation received
- Following discussion on the two transfer options, the RSC has deferred the decision to discuss at June Advisory Board to allow time to consider all points made in the EOIs and by board members.

RSC decision: Deferred

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision