



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

26 January 2023

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 Director (RD) chair

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Penny Barratt
- Cassie Buchanan
- Rama Venchard
- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Gill Bal
- Vanessa Ogden
- Susan Douglas

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Emma Bradshaw

DfE senior civil servants

- None

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

RD update

- Minutes of last meeting agreed.

AB member reflections

- AB discussed SEND funding.

School Resource Management Advisers

- The AB received a briefing on the SRMA programme of support.
- SRMAs are independent advisers, not employed directly by DfE, who have experience in the management of resources in the education sector.
- All SRMAs have been through an accreditation process, currently run by Education Performance Improvement Limited.
- All SRMAs are linked with one of the SRMA suppliers: North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) or The Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL).
- The AB discussed core aspects of comprehensive deployment including the Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) approach and metrics.

Local Update

- Westminster

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: St Augustine RC Primary School, Hammersmith & Fulham, to become an academy and join St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: St Augustine's Roman Catholic Primary School (Ofsted Good 2021) is a one-form entry Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school.

St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust is a two school MAT with another school in the pipeline.

Noted the trust's growth plan.

The Diocese of Westminster is supportive of the conversion.

An SRMA visit took place as a proactive engagement by the school. There were no major concerns.

The school has been judged Ofsted 'Good' at the last inspection.

Noted the school is a feeder for Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC School which is already part of the trust.

AB discussed trust finances and staffing cost.

Suggestion that the Diocesan Director of Education be invited to a future board to brief AB on the overarching strategy.

Discussed governance and the potential benefits of a separate finance committee.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Recommended offer of an NLG review. Recommended offer of a bespoke SRMA visit.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: Marylebone Boys' School, Westminster – seeking to open a special resource provision for 18 pupils across years 7-11

AB discussion: Marylebone Boys' School opened as a free school in September 2014 and was Ofsted graded 'Good' in May 2017. Currently awaiting notification of the outcome of the latest Ofsted inspection.

At the request of Westminster City Council, Marylebone Boys' School (MBS) is seeking to create a Special Resource Provision for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

As well as funding the places, LA are providing a budget to support the necessary upgrade to accommodation to support pupils with autism.

AB discussed consultation process.

Discussed governance as well as HR expertise and SEND experience.

AB discussed school's educational performance.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Recommended offer of an NLG review. Recommendation for the trust to negotiate a funding arrangement with LA that gives a stable funding stream with guaranteed places for an initial start-up period. Recommendation that the trust considers partnering with a strong trust with a track record of working with children with special educational needs.

Project: Oaklands Primary Academy, Bromley - to add a SEND APR unit

AB discussion: Oaklands Primary Academy is a three form entry semi-rural school in Bromley. The school converted to a SAT in September 2015 and was Ofsted rated good in all areas May 2018.

Oaklands Primary Academy has been working closely with the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) on the proposal for the addition of a high needs SEND APR unit at the academy. LBB are committed to commissioning places and providing necessary funding.

AB discussed current site.

AB discussed governance structure and recommended offering an NLG review.

AB recommendation for the school's funding agreement to be updated.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Discussion with school to confirm future plans which mitigate governance concerns and the recommendation for funding agreement updates.

Project: Willow Dene School, Greenwich - to increase the upper age limit from 16 to 19

AB discussion: Willow Dene is a special school located in Greenwich for children with special educational needs aged 2-16 years. It is part of the Compass Partnership of Schools trust.

The proposal is to expand Willow Dene School to add 24 post-16 specialist places for pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and complex educational needs.

The proposed expansion is at the request of the Royal Borough of Greenwich who will be providing funding for the required building work.

The academy was inspected by Ofsted in November 2022 and was judged to be 'Outstanding' across all areas.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action required.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Welldon Park Primary School, Harrow (part of The Pegasus Partnership Trust) - Removing a Specialist Resource Provision for Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action required.