



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

25 May 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

- Cassie Buchanan
- Rama Venchard
- Gill Bal
- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Emma Bradshaw
- Vanessa Ogden
- Penny Barratt

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Susan Douglas

DfE senior civil servants

- Anna Barker

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

RD update

- Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Merryhills Primary School, Enfield, to become an academy and join Attigo Academy Trust

AB discussion: Merryhills Primary School is a 3fE school located a mile away from Attigo Academy Trust. (AAT).

Merryhills is part of the Enfield Town Schools' Partnership (ETSP). A group of 23 local schools set up to advance the education of pupils through provision of services, facilities and activities to meet their social and emotional wellbeing needs. Two of the schools in AAT are also members of ETSP so work alongside Merryhills.

The school was judged "Good" by Ofsted (March 2012 and April 2018).

AAT believe they have capacity to bring another school into the trust. AAT has worked with Merryhills in an informal capacity over several years. They believe the values of AAT are complemented by those of Merryhills and a working relationship is already established.

LA is supportive of the proposal.

Discussed schools in AAT trust.

AB discussed finances at the trust and school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Condition for trust to send revised finances.

Project: Bannockburn Primary School, Greenwich – to become an academy and join PolyMAT

AB discussion: Bannockburn is a large primary school in Plumstead, Greenwich, which includes nursery provision and was rated Ofsted Outstanding at its most recent inspection.

The school is already a feeder for both of PolyMAT's secondary schools and therefore they have established clear links together within the local community.

If the school joins the PolyMAT the school will be the first primary to join the trust and will lead the future growth of the trust in primary phase.

Discussed trust governance.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action required.

Project: To discuss and consider whether the three schools which form Leathersellers' Federation of Schools should become academies and form a new MAT. The three schools are:

- Prendergast Ladywell School
- Prendergast School
- Prendergast Vale School

AB discussion: Leathersellers is a federation of 3 schools: Prendergast Ladywell School, Brockley, Prendergast School, Brockley and Prendergast Vale School, South East London. All are situated in the London Borough of Lewisham.

The federation currently has 14 forms of entry (FE) at secondary and 3FE at primary. The federation does not have the same critical mass at primary to support collaboration and improvement that they have at secondary. Becoming a local MAT, with a careful strategy of steady, incremental and local growth would allow the trust to build on the existing model of collaboration and extend the positive local impact by bringing additional primaries in the group of schools.

All schools in the federation are Ofsted rated “Good” or “Outstanding”.

AB discussed the consultation process conducted by the federation.

Question on the rationale of why Leathersellers want to academise.

Discussed governance of the federation.

RD decision: Only for discussion

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: RD to make a decision after considering AB feedback and any representations received.

Significant Change

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

Project: Bower Park Academy, Havering - to establish specialist provision for pupils with sensory impairments

AB discussion: Bower Park Academy is an Ofsted 'Good' 7 Form Entry secondary school with 1050 places.

In collaboration with Havering Council, Bower Park Academy (part of Empower Learning Academy Trust) is proposing to establish a specialist provision for 12 pupils with Sensory Impairments by September 2023.

The trust already has a 30 place SEND Unit for primary pupils with Hearing Impairments at Hacton Primary School. However, there is no secondary SEND Unit for such pupils to transition into Secondary Education.

The Trust undertook a consultation between 15 November 2022 and 13 December 2022 with vast majority in favour.

Discussed trust finances. Though ESFA does not have financial concerns, an SRMA visit may be useful.

Discussed performance at school.

Discussed the strength of the secondary provision as well as question on the urgency of the proposal.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Recommendation for an SRMA visit.

Project: Paxton Academy Sports and Science, Croydon - to add a nursery provision

AB discussion: Paxton Academy Sports and Science opened in September 2014 as a Free School and joined the Wandle Learning Trust (WLT) in July 2019 following challenges around governance and financial management. In November 2019, two months after the academy joined WLT, it was judged by Ofsted to be inadequate. Over the course of the next 2 years, WLT worked hard to address the challenges at the academy. Positive monitoring visits led to a full S.5 inspection in December 2022 judging the academy as "Good". WLT wanted to focus on improving the school before considering adding a nursery.

The building was designed to cater for 3-form entry primary school (90 PAN), but is currently 2-form entry school. Therefore, there is surplus accommodation that can be used for a nursery provision.

Discussed growth plan.

Discussed leadership model.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action needed.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: The Petchey Academy (SAT), Hackney – to join Community Schools Trust

AB discussion: The Petchey Academy (TPA) is a single academy trust which opened in 2006. The academy is Ofsted Good (June 2018) but has needed support on a range of issues which has been provided by Community Schools Trust (CST) on an Associate Membership basis. This has stabilised the position at Petchey and trustees have decided to join the trust on a permanent basis.

CST is a trust comprising three secondary schools and one UTC, all of which are Good and Outstanding. The trust has capacity for growth.

Discussed risks of school not joining a MAT at this point.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action needed.

Project: Sir William Burrough Primary Academy, Tower Hamlets - to join University Schools Trust

AB discussion: Sir William Burrough (SWB) is a 3 - 11 mixed primary academy in Tower Hamlets. It has applied to join University Schools Trust (UST), a trust comprising three schools (one primary, one all through and one secondary): Cyril Jackson Primary school, St Paul's Way Trust School, and Royal Greenwich Trust School. SWB has gone from 'outstanding' (March, 2008) to 'requires improvement' (September, 2022). In the latest report, Ofsted highlighted several areas of improvement linked to the curriculum, leadership and management and the quality of education.

The SAT has worked informally with UST for some time and there are links between the trusts as SWB is a feeder school to the secondary phase of St Paul's Way Trust School.

Discussed finances at the school and the support UST can provide.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No further action needed.