



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

13 July 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
- Susan Douglas
- Emma Bradshaw
- Penny Barratt

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Vanessa Ogden
- Gill Bal

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.

Significant Change

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

Project: To discuss the merger of Ormiston Courtyard Academy and Ormiston Bridge Academy

AB discussion: The Trust propose to merge Ormiston Courtyard Academy and Ormiston Bridge Academy, both AP academies based in Hammersmith and Fulham and base them on the existing Bridge site, which will become an all-through provision for children between 5-16 years old.

The Trust does not believe it is viable to retain the separate Courtyard site and therefore the application proposes to close the academy with pupils moving into the Greswell Building situated on the Bridge Academy site from September 2023. The Bridge would change its age range and become an all through AP academy. Hammersmith and Fulham currently commission 14 places at Courtyard and this would continue at the Bridge site.

The board discussed the resources needed to manage change and the safeguarding requirements to ensure the safe segregation of the provisions.

A question was raised on whether the two provisions will retain their separate URNs or put under the same URN.

Noted consultation has been positive.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: To clarify the position regarding the URNs.

Project: To discuss St Mary's Norwood Green - change of age range to allow for nursery

AB discussion: St Mary's Church of England School (Norwood Green) is a 1FE school with 164 pupils currently on the roll with a capacity of 210.

St Mary's is looking to extend their age range from 4-11 to 3-11 by adding a nursery. The income from the nursery and the potential increase in pupil numbers will help ensure the school's long-term future. The academy (SAT) would like the change to come into effect from September 2023.

AB discussed impact of this change to existing provisions and noted the LA is unsupportive of the proposal.

Discussed leadership experience at the school in running nurseries.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required.

Trust Change

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

Project: To discuss Warren Road Primary School, Bromley (SAT) joining London South East Academies Trust (LSEAT)

AB discussion: Warren Road Primary School became an academy (SAT) in Jul 2011. Having been judged outstanding by Ofsted in Mar 2008, it was again outstanding at its next inspection in Dec 22.

In early 2023, Warren Road's board and executive began to consider options for the school's future in line with the vision set out in the government's 2022 Schools' White Paper.

After due diligence, the academy resolved that LSEAT aligned most closely with its vision.

LSEAT has nine academies and was founded to work in alternative provision. It has remained focussed on AP and SEND, with one mainstream primary school in Bexley.

Warren Road will support LSEAT in building the capacity to develop a primary mainstream hub, which Warren Road will lead within the trust.

A question was raised on LSEAT's growth plans.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Rama Venchard did not receive the papers and was not present for this item.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: To discuss Compass Academy trust (MAT) joining Connect Schools Academy Trust (MAT)

AB discussion: In line with the DfE's vision for schools as set out in the 2022 Schools' White Paper, Connect Schools Academy Trust (CSAT) and Compass Academy Trust (CAT) want to take the opportunity to create a larger and more sustainable organisation that enables them to continue to serve the needs of the pupils they serve in the way that they want to.

CSAT is formed of 4 primary schools, 1 infant school and 1 junior school. Two schools are outstanding, and the other two are currently good. CAT is formed of 4 primary school all rated good.

Should approval be granted a new trust name will be selected.

Noted consultation was positive.

Noted recent SRMA deployment.

Discussed finances within the trusts.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Rama Venchard did not receive the papers and was not present for this item.

Further actions required: No action required.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Solebay Primary Academy (part of Paradigm Trust), Tower Hamlets – change of age range from 3-11 to 2-11.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required.

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