



Notes of Meeting: East of England

Date of meeting – 19 October 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). Board members with conflicts of interest with an item were not present during the discussion, nor received papers for the item.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Jonathan Duff (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Al Kingsley (AB)
- Tim Coulson (AB)
- Mark Farmer (AB)
- Clare Flintoff (AB)
- Lawrence Chapman (AB)
- Sarah Skinner (AB)
- Josephine Valentine (AB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representative

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

- The RD gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board considered Ofsted judgment outcomes for the previous month.
- The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich were invited to the board to give an overview of their strategy and plans for the next three years. The RD indicated it was his intention to invite other dioceses to give similar presentations to the board in the coming months.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss whether to approve the amalgamation of Greenfield Lower School and Pulloxhill CofE Lower School in Central Bedfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that the proposal is to close Pulloxhill and consolidate on the Greenfield site
- The board discussed the finance and governance of the trust and noted that the consultation response was mostly against the merger.
- The RD and board discussed alternative options

RD decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: SRMA to be completed in November. Delivery Officer to discuss sponsor options.

Sponsored Change

Project: To discuss whether Bedford Road Primary School, Bedford, should join Knowledge Schools Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that Bedford Road received a Required Improvement Ofsted rating following the last two inspections
- The board heard that Knowledge Schools trust has been identified as the best place to support the school.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the trusts of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss whether to approve the application for a new SEMH unit at St Marys C of E Primary school (part of Berlesduna Academy Trust), Essex.

AB discussion:

- The board heard the proposal to open a new Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) unit at St Marys CofE Primary School
- The board heard that the Local Authority has identified a need and supports this proposal
- The board discussed the risk and potential capacity to enact improvements

RD decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the trusts of the decision. Trust to wait for upcoming Ofsted inspection.

Trust Change

Project: To discuss whether William de Ferrers School, Essex, should join The Chelmsford Learning Partnership.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and agreed the proposal is a good match for William de Ferrers.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Trust Change

Project: To Discuss whether to approve the sponsored conversion of ORTU Gable Hall and the voluntary transfer of ORTU Corringham and ORTU Hassenbrook, Thurrock, to The Mossbourne Federation. Concurrently, whether to approve the dissolution of the ORTU Federation subject to successful transfer of all three academies to The Mossbourne Federation.

AB discussion:

- The board heard the proposal to transfer Gable Hall, Corringham and Hassenbrook to The Mossbourne Federation
- The board noted the strong track record of Mossbourne
- The board heard how this will create a new hub which will bring more KS4 strength into Thurrock

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: To discuss whether St Rose's Catholic Infants School, Hertfordshire should join All Saints Catholic Academy Trust, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: To discuss whether St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School, Hertfordshire should join All Saints Catholic Academy Trust, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trusts of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project:

To discuss whether Saint Bernadette Catholic Primary School, Hertfordshire should join All Saints Catholic Academy Trust, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trusts of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: To discuss whether Queen Elizabeth School, Luton, should join the Every Child, Everyday Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The proposal was previously deferred requiring further clarification.
- The board felt that the supplementary evidence was still not enough to support the conversion.
- The RD agreed that further evidence demonstrating the impact is still required.

RD decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Further evidence required before coming back to the board.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss whether St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Hertfordshire, should join Chess Valley Primary Learning Trust, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss whether Weasenham Church of England Primary Academy, Norfolk, should merge with Brisley Church of England Primary Academy.

AB discussion:

- The board heard the proposal to merge Weasenham with Brisley and close the Weasenham site.

- The board heard that the proposal is supported by the Local authority and the Diocese.
- The RD confirmed that as this is a closure of a rural school it will be escalated to the Minister.

RD decision: Escalate to Minister

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the outcome. The RD will escalate the decision to the Minister for a decision.

Sponsored

Project: To discuss whether North Elmham CEVA Primary School, Norfolk, should join The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that North Elmham received an Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement (RI) in January 2023 following a previous RI judgement from May 2019.
- The federation has already been engaging in a trust partnership agreement with DNEAT.
- The board discussed the capacity of the trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: To discuss whether All Saints Church of England CEVA Primary School, Norfolk, should join The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that the governing body has decided that All Saints should join DNEAT at the same time as North Elmham, to reduce any potential disruption for the leadership.
- The federation has already been engaging in a trust partnership agreement with DNEAT.
- The board discussed the capacity of the trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the local authority and the trust of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: To discuss whether John Ray Infants, Essex, should join The Compass Partnership of Schools.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss whether to approve the significant change of an increase in pupil capacity from 1450 to 1600 which includes the expansion of the sixth form of Beaumont School, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board considered the case and provided no advice in relation to the proposal.
- No concerns were raised

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: To discuss whether Reepham Primary school, Norfolk, should change the lower age limit by one year to incorporate nursery provision, from 4-11 to 3-11.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school of the decision.

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: Trust Change

To discuss Ralph Sadleir School (MAT) merging with Freman College (SAT) to form a new MAT named the Halcyon Trust, Hertfordshire.

Type of decision: Trust Change.

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further information requested to make an informed decision.

Project: Significant Change

To discuss The Open Academy, Norfolk, being given a faith designation.

Type of decision: Significant Change.

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further information requested to make an informed decision.