

Minutes

OAT Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday 20th July 2017

Time: 11.00am

Location: The Gloucester Room, Thistle Euston Hotel, Cardington Road, Euston, NW1 2LP

Present:

Paul Hann	PH	Chair
Wendy Barnes	WB	Trustee
Ian Brookman	IB	Trustee (by telephone)
Frances Hall	FH	Trustee (by telephone)
Nick Hudson	NH	Interim CEO and Trustee
Nicole McCartney	NMC	National Director of Performance and Partnerships/Trustee
Peter Murray	PM	Trustee and Founding Chair
Bal Samra	BS	Trustee
Ken Shooter	KS	Trustee
Mark Stanyer	MS	Executive Principal and Trustee

Apologies:

Sir Robin Boshier	RB	Trustee
Julie Bloor	JB	Interim CAIO

In Attendance:

Luke Bowers	LB	Director of Quality, Curriculum and Assessment
Mark Henson	MH	Company Secretary
James Miller	JM	National Director of Estates and Technology
James Murray	JMU	Ormiston Trust
Paul Nye	PN	Chief Operating Officer

Part	Discussion	ACTION
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received and accepted from RB and JB.	
2	Minutes/Administration	
2.1	<u>Declaration of interests and Trustees interests</u> Annual review of interests with any amendments to be submitted to MH.	ALL
2.2	<u>Trustees</u> Appointment of NH as Trustee (whilst interim CEO) w.e.f. 16 June ratified. PH noted that KS retired as a Trustee at the close of the meeting and thanked him for his long service and contribution.	MH

2.3	<p>Minutes of Board Meeting 9 March 2017 The Minutes of the Board Meeting of 9 March 2017 were approved as a true record and signed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman.</p> <p>All matters arising had been actioned or formed part of the meeting's agenda.</p>	PH
3	Eastern Region Pilot Update	
3.1	NMC summarised the initial aims of the regional pilot, its achievements in the first year and key findings and recommendations of the independent review. Discussion included key learnings, speed of implementation and potential organisational and economic impacts.	
3.2	Further consideration of the model for future roll-out and proposed responses to the independent recommendations - update at September meeting.	NH/NMC
4	Regional Strategy Discussion	
4.1	NH summarised the headline strategic position previously adopted by the Board with examples of recent growth of OAT in line with this since its articulation.	
4.2	Different scenarios of potential growth/contraction were discussed together with a draft framework of key criteria to deliver the right future growth; the importance of strong due diligence; organisation design considerations; the need to remain flexible and not too prescriptive; OAT culture; and clarity of the "OAT Offer" when approaching primary and secondary schools/MATs.	
5	School Improvement and Standards Committee Update	
5.1	LB updated the Trustees on Primary outcomes; KS4 predictions; curriculum led financial planning; school improvement compliance; and Ofsted inspections since the previous meetings. Agreed SIS and FOR Committees would review the compliance framework in detail.	NH/LB
5.2	Other items discussed included national rise in permanent and fixed term exclusion rates; safeguarding; staff teaching profiles and strategies; and an update on 6 th Form academies including noting the LGB recommendation to close an OAT sixth form which was accepted. Agreed teaching profile strategies and 6th Form update post 2017 August results to be reviewed with SIS/FOR Committees.	NH
6	Financial Oversight & Risk Committee Update	
6.1	PN summarised the process followed and recommendation of the Audit Committee to the Board to appoint RSM as external auditors on receipt of the formal resignation of Grant Thornton which was approved.	PN
6.2	PN summarised the 2017/18 Draft Budget; its key assumptions and exceptional school circumstances. Discussion included the need for medium term plans for schools in deficit; head office reserves; the improving comparative data; and modelling of regional/central structure impacts. After discussion, the budget 2017/18 as presented was approved.	PN

6.3	Agreed that a Principals survey of services be issued with results update at December 2017 Trustee meeting.	PN
7	Update on Estates and Technology	
7.1	JM updated the trustees on estates management and capital programmes focussing on compliance, security and health & safety noting the prompt and comprehensive response of OAT to ESfA's survey requirements following the Grenfell Tower fire. Detailed construction surveys were additionally planned across the estate.	
8	Verbal update on potential projects	
8.1	PN updated the Board on current discussions in terms of academy conversions, due diligence processes and future potential conversions. After discussion, the Board approved Broadland High School's conversion into OAT.	PN
9	Complaints Policy	
9.1	Subject to some minor suggestions, the Board noted the OAT Complaints policy.	NH/JB
10	Dates of next meetings	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 14th September 2017 • Thursday 14th December 2017 • Thursday 8 March 2018 (TBC) • Thursday 19 July 2018 (TBC) 	
	There being no further business, the meeting closed.	
	Chairman	