

Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

17th 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). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anita Ghidotti-Gibson
- Karen Burns
- George Beveridge
- Helen O'Neill
- Nic Brindle
- Tania Lewyckyj

Apologies

- Annette Williams

DfE senior civil servants

- Mark Taylor, Deputy Director, North West Regions Group

Representations received

none

General Discussion Points

- The Regional Director reflected on the North West region's response to reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools.

AB member reflections

- The board reflected on recent network meetings and general feedback from the sector.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust

- **Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Blackpool.**
- **St William's Catholic Primary School, Pilling, Lancashire**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board noted that the trust has agreed to a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Helen O'Neill – CEO of Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Member was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Concordia Multi Academy Trust

- **Lache Primary School, Cheshire West and Chester.**
- **Willow Wood Community Nursery & Primary School, Cheshire West and Chester.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board noted that the trust has agreed to a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment.
- The board welcomed the trust's growth plan.
- The board suggested the trust might want to review its governance arrangements in advance of the schools joining the trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Bradshaw Community Primary School, Warrington, to convert and join Omega Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected on the Ofsted reports for the trust's other schools and noted the trust's impact on its schools.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust:

- **St Mary's RC Primary, Bury.**
- **St Joseph's RC Primary, Bury.**
- **St Bernadette's RC Primary, Bury.**
- **St Joseph's RC Primary, Rochdale.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected on the history, roadmap and rate of growth for the trust.
- The board discussed the preference for clusters of schools to join the trust to support the sequencing.
- The board were informed that the trust has had a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment, but a supportive one could be offered again.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Tania Lewyckyj – raised prior to the discussion that member has provided support to St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust. Member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Epworth Education Trust:

- **Leyland Methodist Infant, Lancashire.**
- **Leyland Methodist Junior, Lancashire.**
- **Wheatley Lane Methodist, Lancashire.**
- **Hey With Zion, Oldham**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation, with one condition.
- The board discussed the limited availability of trusts available for Methodist schools, and the suitability of Epworth for this cluster.
- The board were informed that the diocese of Manchester has provided consent for Hey With Zion to join Epworth rather than one of their own trusts.

RD decision: Approve with one condition

1. Trust to provide further information on how it will continue to build the skills and expertise of its support, to support growth.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of a new Multi-Academy Trust, Four Rivers MAT, to form and for the following schools to convert and join:

- Oakgrove School, Stockport.
- Lisburne School, Stockport.
- Dial Park School, Stockport.
- Norbury Hall School, Stockport.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected on how the MAT structure would support the schools move from the current collaborative model to the MAT accountability structure and ways of working.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Park View School, Manchester, to convert and join Wise Owl Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.

- The board suggested the trust looks to secure additional independent trustees.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of a new Multi-Academy Trust, East Lancs Learning Trust (permanent name TBC), to form and for the following schools to convert and join:

- **Unity College, Lancashire.**
- **Sir John Thursby Community College, Lancashire.**

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on how the MAT structure would support the schools move from the current collaborative model to the MAT accountability structure and ways of working.
- The board reflected on the directive Academy Order at Shuttleworth and noted the improvements made by the school, noted by Ofsted, since the Academy Order was issued.

RD decision: Defer with conditions

1. Trust to provide a full financial plan by the end of October 2023.
2. Trust to provide an update on their governance arrangements.

Conflicts: Nic Brindle – CEO of The Youth Engagement Schools Trust. Ridgewood Community High School approved to join the trust. Sir John Thursby Community College shares the same site. Member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust:

- **Norley CofE VA Primary School, Cheshire West and Chester.**
- **Dodleston CofE Primary School, Cheshire West and Chester.**
- **St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Halton.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Halton, to convert and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust.

This project was withdrawn from the agenda at the request of the trust after Advisory Board members had been provided with the project papers.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The decision to approve St Mary's will be made by the Regional Director as a decision between meetings to allow the project to progress once the trust is ready to proceed.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Sponsored Route:

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to consider Peel Hall Primary School, Manchester, to convert and join Wise Owl Trust.

AB discussion:

- This was discussed alongside Park View School, Manchester, converting and joining Wise Owl Trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Shuttleworth College, Lancashire, to convert and join East Lancs Learning Trust (permanent name TBC).

AB discussion:

- This was discussed alongside the project to form the East Lancs Learning Trust (permanent name TBC) and for Unity College and Sir John Thursby Community College to convert and join.
- As the decision to form the MAT was deferred, it was agreed this decision will also be deferred.

RD decision: Defer with conditions

1. Trust to provide a full financial plan by the end of October 2023.
2. Trust to provide an update on their governance arrangements.

Conflicts: Nic Brindle – CEO of The Youth Engagement Schools Trust. Ridgewood Community High School approved to join the trust. Sir John Thursby Community College shares the same site. Member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings:

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

Project: Boseley St Marys CofE Primary School, Cheshire East, for nursery and age range change from 4-11 to 3-11

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform trust of decision.

Project: Astbury St Mary's CofE Primary School, Cheshire East, for nursery and age range change from 4-11 to 3-11

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform trust of decision.

Project: Moreton Christ Church CofE Primary School, Wirral, for nursery and age range change from 4-11 to 3-11

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform trust of decision.

© Crown copyright 2023