



Education South West

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

To be held on 2 February 2023 at 5pm

Meeting started at 5.10pm

Introductions were made with all present.

J Sutton

Chair of the Meeting

The Members should appoint one of their number to act as Chair.

1. Election of Chair

Annual Report and Accounts

The Directors are required to present to the meeting the Company's audited annual accounts and related reports for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 (the Annual Report and Accounts).

2. To receive and consider the Company's Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

JPike Page 9, not much improvement in terms of energy consumption

SW – not a lot of change wrt usage. Mixed with all of that the COVID factor so the heating was on and the windows were open. Going forward, this year there is focus on trying to reduce the energy consumption across the Trust. Detailed energy audits across much of the Trust with our guys which is a cost saving. Identified ad hoc things that were previously not on our radar - ie wear and tear, constant usage of electrical items that could be on a timer. Lighting is an area we are looking at. Cost for energy is a big figure across the Trust.

SM – what % of expenditure is staffing costs and where do you think it is going? SW – around 75%. Not markedly changing as there has been increase in grant income but they will be changing. LW – is it a worrying concern? /sw – no more than it has been. MW unfunded increases is causing concern (£900K+). But a grant is likely but when who knows.

Changes to the Trustees

The Trust's Articles do not require all or any of the Trustees to stand for annual election by Members.

3. For the record, the following changes to the Board of Trustees occurred during the year under review:

1. Lindsay Yelland – resigned on 31 August 2022
2. Jeremy Fothergill – resigned on 31 August 2022
3. Peter di Giuseppe - resigned on 31 August 2022
4. Adrian Hines – appointed on 1 September 2022

LW commended 1.2.3 for their service and welcomed Adrian

Jeremy resignation was in November (KK) - PTD to change

Re-appointment of Auditor

4. To re-appoint Francis Clark LLP as Auditor of the Trust to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Trust at which the Annual Report and Accounts are laid.

An assessment of the effectiveness, independence and objectivity of the Auditor has been undertaken by the Finance and Internal Assurance Committee which has recommended to the Board that Francis Clark LLP be re-appointed as Auditor.

GA – coming up to the 5th year for them being auditors for ESW. We are looking at this and discussing this in the finance committee and we are looking at if we go out to tender and SW and GA are having a meeting with the audit partner at F Clarke to ensure that we are getting what we require and are compliant with the handbook.

SM – what is a review? GA – we have not gone out to market yet and it would be a step to maintain total independence and a fresh look. Benchmarking of cost we are in the right area and in terms of service we are very happy. We need to be clear as to exactly what we want to re-tender for.

Minutes of the previous AGM's

The Members should confirm the validity of the previous AGM minutes.

5. Approval of AGM minutes



Approved as a true record. Jan 21/22 Jan 20/21.

By order of the Board

Pippa Truman Davies
Governance Professional

25 January 2023

After the formal proceedings there will be an opportunity to discuss any questions arising with regards to educational progress, governance and current plans.

Note: Members are entitled to appoint a proxy. In accordance with Article 40 an instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the appointer and returned to pippa.trumandavies@educationsouthwest.org.uk. In accordance with Article 42 please return the proxy form not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting. A form of proxy is attached.

AOB:

LW – sense of where we think things are at the moment and any other issues.

LC – recruitment and retention is an issue. MS – DAR is in a difficult location as well as KCC. Gov are well behind with recruitment and it is a national figure. This is the same for teachers, admin, support and everyone in the sector. Strategies: -

Teaching school status to get our name out there and we deliver NPQ's and engage people and deliver them.

Getting out and about and getting our name known as a good trust to work for

Setting up our own initial teacher training through ESW and as an associate college of the National institute of teaching. This is in the pipeline.

Demands then on TH for the quality assurance of the course but there is a point when there is no more capacity. Planning recruitment looking at the future sustainability of the organisation.

SM – do you have substantial records of the abilities of current teachers to do other subjects?

MS – yes.

MS – we support Bidiford, and we have a good reputation even though they are not planning to join.

TH – mobility – we are starting to use English teacher to go to KCC.

LC – does not think that teacher will get a pay rise so this may influence negatively the numbers going into the profession. This is worrying. Are you having to put more money in

MS – yes, in terms of pay and training. Dedicated people talent management person is in the planning, perhaps from other joining schools into the Trust perhaps if they have the right skill set.

MS – better to work with what you have got and improve it than risk having no teacher in place at all.

SM – risk register – 2 things that were not on it.

MS – AH, DP and GA done a lot of work on the RR. We now have a nice grid that

In doing that exercise it identified 2 risks that were not on there that we are dealing with all the time.

LW – chairs forum working well.

Th 0- working well and developing nicely. Giving chairs questions to show what they have gleamed from the LGBs. It is becoming more productive as a meeting and it is an important part of the Gov network.

AH – chairs are all very engaged and attendance is good.

KK – the focus this term was on attendance and it was a very interesting discussion.

MS – we set it up because there was a load of noise about the Trust and so we can share their issues together and impart information in one go. Get it all out in the open. But

SM – ambition report about involving the lgb's

BT – good feedback about it from the Chair of DAR at a training recently.

TH – esw central reports now go at LGB levels so it has opened up more opportunities for chairs to ask and discuss.

LW – do all the governing bodies have full Governors.



MS – we don't prescribe what it should be. TEI always have had a large LGB and CHD fewer. Situation has reversed now. Harder to recruit Governors who will challenge and grow the LGB and school. MS mentioned changing the name from LGB's to Local Academy Boards but it is still open for discussion as he is not in support.
JP – attendance?

MS – it is poor and has gone down since COVID. Some children and parents are still anxious and some are just in bad habits. We are doing all that we can to improve attendance. It is going to be a 3 / 4 year change.

LW – is that an issue in specific schools? MS – attendance at the UTC is lower due to the nature of the cohort that is enrolled. Otherwise Cumbria, York, Birmingham ..trusts we are working with to see what they are doing.
TH – PA is a real issue. It is those pupils who are not in school because of anxiety / medical issues that are making the figures look worse than they are.

LC - ??

MS – spoke about giving financial rewards if a child is in two weeks in a row. But we can't do that now.

JP – strikes?

#MS – all schools were open. In Devon 50% were open. Some open to limited year groups.
Years 11 ,12 and 13 were in and in a number of schools years 8 and 9 were not in.

LW – great that all schools were open.

TH – we insured that all SEND and Disadvantaged were offered the opportunity to be in school.

SM – Regional schools director meeting – what is your Growth plan?

MS – not under any pressure from RD's. We don't have a growth plan as we want to keep our values and ethos and not take on any schools that do not exhibit these already. We are professionally giving to schools in Torbay who will never join but they are learning so their Trust will be better in the future which will benefit children. South Hams now in a partnership with us and they are likely to join the Trust in a year. Exmouth intended to join in September as they want to put a new HT in place before September so it will now be another 6 months before they are likely to join.#

6 Feb going to board to formally declare they want to join usd – Kingsteington.

Wyndstream primary is a huge issue financially and educationally and in a rough part of Exeter but it is a real golden goose We are looking at those children now and it has greatly improved with Elise Redman now as the HT.

St Cuthbert Mayne – 18 months into it and they are not moving towards a formal notification to join which is hindering us

Torquay girls grammar – supporting the new HT and they are now ok so they don't need us in the same way.

Exeter learning academy trust – supporting them also.

JP – KEVICCS?

MS – KEV Chair and HT are positive about joining.

LW – Culture and ethos still stays there in the midst of what you are doing amidst enormous changes in society.

A pleasure to come and have this conversation.

Delighted that all are going so well.

Meeting ended 7,53pm.