



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W. T. Hermon

28/01/2020

Minutes

An Daras Multi-Academy Trust Members General Meeting (Interim)

Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 1.30pm at ADMAT Central Office

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Ann Nicholson, Margaret Young, Eva Paynter, Sue Lockwood (Eden), Paul O'Brien and Will Hermon (CEO)

Apologies: Graeme Barriball

In Attendance: Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

Prior to the meeting, the Members met with Carol Green and Trudy Rudge.

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests Relevant to this Agenda

None declared and no changes to annual declarations.

3. Approve Previous Minutes

No actions required. Members agreed the minutes and a member signed a copy.

4. Confidential Agenda Items

None.

5. Presentation of Accounts

The Trust's annual accounts for 18/19 have been approved by the Directors and submitted to ESFA and Companies House. WH talked through a brief summary of the financial statements, showing that after the difficult decisions taken last year, the Trust and schools are in a better financial position, but it has come at a cost to learning and support provision in some schools. WH noted the external auditor's observations in the Key Issues for Discussion Document (KIDD) received from Bishop Fleming and SL requested information on the amber level observations. WH explained what they were and that any observations are being built into the financial section of the Trust Improvement Plan for this year which started in January 20; there are no red flags to note and generally financial controls are in order. Members discussed possible issues with pupil numbers and funding in future, especially given the potential free school in Launceston.

6. Appoint External Auditor

The Members have previously approved to appoint Bishop Fleming as external auditors for 2020 [ref email on 24th July 2019 at 10:46]. After this, quotes will be obtained for alternative auditors.

7. An Daras MAT Strategic Update

a. Update on MAT top 3 Risks

(1) Financial viability – WH discussed funding based on pupil numbers and where numbers are tight. Werrington sitting at 70, NP at 58, CG at around 50, PT at 35 but the town schools are full.

(2) Standards falling below the required DfE standards. WH noted that each school and the Trust's self-evaluation judgements are sound and WHA, SSCA and LT are due Ofsted inspections this year.

(3) Premises infrastructure condition of the schools is a real issue and a lack of investment over previous years by the LA is now starting to show with damp, sewage issues, broken boilers etc. Some work has had to be carried out at NP at a cost of £70K to An Daras and emergency funding bids for this money to the ESFA have been refused as the Trust is holding reserves - as directed by the ESFA. So, having followed direction to tighten expenditure and hold correct levels of reserves (6 weeks operating expense), the Trust is now penalised by not receiving grants for infrastructure improvements. A Member suggested looking at whether we can hold reserves separately in a 'ring-fenced' fund and WH will investigate this with Bishop Fleming. SL questioned the risk detail under infrastructure for property management and sought reassurance that all schools are safe; WH noted that the Directors have directed that a Property Condition Survey be done by a professional so that they know the extent of the premises issues and what priority the issues need to be tackled in. He reassured the members that all schools are safe and Health and Safety check compliant at this time but there is definitely long-term infrastructure work to do.

WH noted that there is also a continued shortage of SEND funding or funding for children with additional social and emotional issues.

b. Brief Outline Data/Performance for 18/19

WH outlined the pupil achievement results from last year and put some context behind the disappointing KS2 progress results at some schools. Improvements in KS2 outcomes for Coads Green were also discussed. WH noted some staff changes and school improvement measures being put in place this year to address any identified quality issues.

c. Brief Outline MAT Improvement Plan for 2020

WH highlighted the improvement priorities for the forthcoming year; pupil progress (particularly at windmill Hill and Lew Trenchard), vision and culture, safeguarding (attendance and exclusions), leadership development, premises and IT provision. WH noted the Directors have allocated some additional reserve spending to facilitate extended school improvement resources at all Trust schools this academic year. WH also highlighted the MAT 5-year growth plan and noted that it appears unambitious in terms of growth because there is limited opportunity for growth in the area and that improving standards and the curriculum in the schools is now our focus. WH noted a succession plan for the Trust leader (CEO) will need to be looked at along with the longer-term future of the Trust. The Members discussed matters from the growth plan and a member raised the issue of staff welfare and that this should be considered in all the planning but was aware the Trust was doing all it could to reduce unnecessary staff workload. WH highlighted the further measures that have been put in place to assist with staff workload this year.

d. Curriculum Update

WH highlighted the capabilities curriculum framework aiming to implement a similar curriculum model across the Trust that incorporates the Trust vision, the Church of England vision for education and to ensure that the children are not just challenged academically but also to enable them to be curious, positively engaged, compassionate and competent. A huge amount of work has been done by the schools themselves and the curriculum provision is very exciting and interesting.

8. MAT Board Membership

Members agreed to appoint Carol Green and Trudy Rudge under Article 50 and the ordinary resolution was signed. TM will amend the registers and GIAS.

9. Any other Business

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Members AGM scheduled for Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 1.30pm at the Central Office.

Meeting closed at 14.45pm.

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

P. O'Brien – Member

E. Paynter – Member

A. Nicholson – Member

M. Young – Member

Eden Member (represented by Sue Lockwood)

G. Barriball – Chair Board of Directors

W. Hermon – CEO Director/Executive Head

Copy to: Sarah Owen, Eden Clerk

Copy to Bex Couch, Askel Veur