



# Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7pm

## Members Present

Amanda Askham (AA), Claire Lawton (CL), Martyn Postle (MP), Albena Madej (AM), Alison Butterworth (AB)

## Trustees Present

Kate Evans (KE CEO), Donna Cornwell (DAC), Sue Speller (SCS), Ken Murphy (KM)

## Others Present

Jon Culpin (JC DCEO) and Kerrie Jones (KJ Clerk)

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>	
	Apologies were accepted from Christopher Walkinshaw (CW Member), Rebecca Walsh (RW COO), Prue Rayner (PR Executive Primary HT) and Philip Hodgson (PH Trustee)  CW had signed an instrument to appoint the Chair as his proxy	
2.	<b>Review of Previous Members' Meeting Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	
	The minutes of the last Members' meeting were agreed as a true record.  The Chair updated Members with the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice regarding the term of office for the Chair of Trustees has lead the Board to retain a 1 year term. Therefore there is no necessity to amend the Articles of Association</li> <li>• The DfE has recently revised its position regarding removing the Chair of the Board as a Member. Claire Lawton will therefore remain as a Member and there is no need at this time to seek further candidates. The new guidance provides greater clarity and emphasizes governance and accountability.</li> <li>• Gareth Davies and Geoff Hayward have resigned from the Trust Board. The DfE now recommends a Board size of 10 so AL is not looking to appoint further Trustees at this time but will assess any required areas of expertise.</li> <li>• The Chair spoke on behalf of everyone at the Trust when she expressed sadness that the CEO will be stepping from her</li> </ul>	

	position at the end of the academic year.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Receive Annual Accounts and Auditors Report</b>	
	<p>The Annual accounts and auditors report had been circulated. Members confirmed that they have read &amp; received them.</p> <p>The CEO explained that the Trust Reserves Policy had already been identified for review and will be considered by the F&amp;A committee at their next meeting.</p> <p>She went on to clarify a number of points raised by Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress is being made centralising a number of services within the Trust. For example a new accounting system has been implemented which will allow meaningful comparisons across the Trust schools. Central systems for HR, IT and pupil progress data will follow.</li> <li>• Particular challenges the Trust face are those of recruitment and finance: Recruitment issues are now being seen across a broader range of subjects than previously which is a major concern. The Trust is developing a recruitment and retention strategy in response. The greatest impact is limited finances which are putting increasing pressure on staff as class sizes increase.</li> <li>• The new Free School opening date has been pushed back so that the school will only open when there is a basic need.</li> <li>• AL is working in partnership with the River Learning Trust, which has a similar business model and is more established. Jonathan Lewis, Schools Commissioner, will also put AL in contact with other similar establishments.</li> </ul>	Update at future Members meeting
<b>4.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p>There was no other business</p> <p>The meeting ended at 7.30pm</p> <p>The September Member's meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September will be moved to 7.30pm and Albena Madej will Chair</p>	