

Anglian Learning Annual General Meeting Meeting Minutes



16 January 2020

Members Present

Amanda Askham (AA Chair), Claire Lawton (CL), Philip Hodgson (PH), Albena Madej (AM) and Martyn Postle (MP)

Trustees Present

Claire Lawton (CL Chair), Jon Culpin (JC CEO), David Lamkin (DL), Sue Speller (SCS), Ken Murphy (KM) and June Cannie (MJC)

Others Present

Charity Main (CM Finance Director) and Kerrie Jones (KJ Clerk)

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were accepted from Christopher Walkinshaw (CW Member) and John Morgan (JM Trustee) Previously the Members had agreed that CW would chair all meetings. As he was unavailable it was agreed that AA would chair the AGM.	
2.	Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	There were no declarations of interest with regards agenda items. All Members had completed their annual pecuniary interest returns.	
3	Review of AGM Minutes 17 Jan 2019	
	Members confirmed that they had all received and noted the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 January 2019. The Minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.	
4.	Receive Annual Accounts and Auditors Report	
	The annual accounts and auditors report had been circulated together with a financial summary by the Director of Finance. Members confirmed that they had received and read these documents. The accounts were scrutinised by the Audit committee on 10 Dec 2019 and approved by the Anglian Learning Trust Board on 17 Dec 2019. They have been submitted to the ESFA. CM's Financial Report clearly summarises the current financial position of the Trust. She explained why unrestricted reserves have decreased due to planned use whilst restricted reserves have increased with money earmarked for sinking funds and a change in accounting practice. The Trust's Reserves Policy has been reviewed this year and the Trust Board will consider applications from its academies for well planned projects.	

	<p>2019/20 financial priorities include the current expansion of the Trust with JFAN transferring in on 1 Jan 2020 and the proposed transfer of CHET.</p> <p>Members asked whether expanding beyond Cambridgeshire could have a positive impact on GAG funding. However, the funding difference in Suffolk and Essex is small and it is more likely the difference in funding for special needs which will have the greater impact.</p> <p>The CEO noted a significant improvement in the Trust's clarity of understanding of its financial position since the appointment of the current Director of Finance.</p> <p>The Members accepted the Annual Report and Accounts as approved by the Trust Board.</p>	
5.	Report from Chair of Trust Board	
	<p>The Chair of Trustees had circulated her report in which she described development and progress of Anglian Learning during the last year. She thanked the Trust Leadership Team for the enormous amount of work they have put in during this time.</p> <p>Key areas described included leadership, governance, finance, operations, and education. It has proved a successful year under the leadership of Jon Culpin and is experiencing growth this year with the transfer of the Joyce Frankland Academy Newport and proposed transfer of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.</p> <p>Members asked about progress of the due diligence process for CHET joining. JC explained the background to the CHET proposal and the challenges of both the due diligence process and of the schools within CHET. Anglian Learning will need to invest resources to achieve the necessary improvements. Although this carries risk, AL is confident that with the high quality of leadership within the Trust this is achievable.</p> <p>JC went on to explain that the new Marleigh Primary School (formerly The Wing) is currently awaiting the outcome of a revised planning application. It is anticipated that the school will open in 2021.</p> <p>Other developments of note include nursery provision at Stapleford Community Primary and a project with the Arts Council to be the first Pathfinder Trust in the country.</p> <p>Members asked whether Anglian Learning has sufficient capacity and financial resources to cope with growth and if there is a danger that existing provision could be put at risk. The CEO stressed that AL's leadership is always alert to this but there is a balance needed in terms of the size of the Trust and the vital funding that additional schools bring. Staffing of the central team has been increased to provide necessary capacity, although finances remain tight. The Trust Capacity Fund awarded when JFAN joined has allowed many developments such improved financial systems necessary to support Trust growth.</p> <p>Members also asked about the strategy around growth and what are the key considerations. Currently the Trust is looking to consolidate its position and is not anticipating any further growth in the near future. Growth is linked to both finances and educational</p>	

	outcomes and the Trust must be assured of being able to improve outcomes for any school it takes on. It will also remain open to the possibility of bidding for new schools.	
6.	AOB	
	There was no other business.	
7.	Set Date time and venue of next meeting	
	<p>The date of the next AGM was set for Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7pm to be held at Bottisham VC.</p> <p>A general meeting was agreed for Thursday 11 June at 7pm to be held at Bottisham VC.</p>	<p>Clerk to include pupil outcomes on AGM agenda.</p> <p>Members to advise Clerk of suggestions for meeting topic focus.</p>

NOT YET AGREED