

# Anglian Learning Annual General Meeting Minutes



25 January 2024

## Members Present

Albena Madej (AM), Gareth Davies (GD) and Martyn Postle (MP Chair)

## Trustees Present

Helen Pain (HP Chair of Trustees), Jon Culpin (JC CEO), David Lamkin (DL), Matthew Blake (MB)

## Others Present

Charity Main (CM COO) and Kerrie Jones (KJ Head of Governance, Compliance and Risk)

	ITEM
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>
	Apologies were accepted from Christopher Walkinshaw (CW).  It was confirmed that Claire Lawton is no longer a Member: she was ex-officio under the previous Articles of Association. Under the new Articles the Chair of Trustees is not a Member.
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items</b>
	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	<b>Review of AGM Minutes 26 Jan 2023</b>
	Members confirmed that they had all received and noted the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 January 2023.  The minutes were agreed as a true record.
4.	<b>Receive Annual Accounts and Auditors Report for the period ending 31 August 2023</b>
	The annual accounts and auditors report had been circulated. Members confirmed that they had received and read these documents. The accounts were scrutinised by the Audit and Risk Assurance committee on 5 Dec 2023 and approved by the Anglian Learning Trust Board on 11 Dec 2023. They have been submitted to the ESFA.  The auditor is Price Bailey, re-appointed by Members at the last General Meeting. CM noted the increasing difficulty with finding firms who will tender. Price Bailey rotate the partners and we are assured this is managed appropriately.  Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue reserves fell to around £4m. The impact of financial pressures last year was not as great as anticipated reducing the impact on reserves.</li> <li>• The audit identified no issues and the Trust receive a positive Management Letter.</li> <li>• Treatment of pension surpluses is a whole sector issue; it does not particularly impact us.</li> </ul> <p>It was confirmed that the increase in GAG funding was due to an increase in pupil numbers.</p>

	<p>Members asked about RAAC at Joyce Frankland following Government action last summer. This was the only Anglian Learning school where RAAC has been identified and mitigations had already been implemented. The day-to-day operation of JFAN is not impacted and the situation is closely monitored. The DfE have visited the site and confirmed it is safe. In due course they will arrange for removal of the RAAC.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Report from Chair of Trust Board</b>
	<p>The Chair of Trustees had circulated her report in advance of the meeting and mentioned some of the highlights including the growing profile of Anglian Learning both locally and nationally, the progress made against the strategic plan and the positive Ofsted judgements at several Trust schools.</p> <p>She thanked the Central Team on behalf of the trust community. She also thanked her colleagues on the Trust Board recognising their support and challenge, and noted the appointment of two new trustees, Matthew Blake and Andy Brock. She thanked Sue O'Farrell and Richard Cowling who retired from the Board last year, and acknowledged the invaluable contribution of Claire Lawton, former Chair of Trustees. Finally, she thanked the staff across all Anglian Learning schools for the tremendous job they do.</p> <p>The Members echoed her thanks, and in particular wanted to thank Claire Lawton for her time as Chair. They noted the quality of those joining the Board and the Executive Team.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>Members asked for an update on Deneia Primary. JC explained there had been some issues around the initial planning and some subsequent concerns which had delayed the project. However, plans are now ready to go to committee in March 2024 and if successful the school is expected to open in Sept 2025. Families have already started to move onto the estate and primary pupils are currently attending Waterbeach Primary.</p> <p>Members asked whether it was usual for plans to be in place before a bid is submitted. It was confirmed that this is not the usual process and that a Trust should be appointed before plans are drawn up to avoid costly revisions.</p> <p>The public consultation meeting for the Sawston Village College rebuild project has taken place and was generally well received. This is an ambitious project with demolition of some buildings and a new two-story building proposed. The Marven Centre is also to be updated. This is being funded by the DfE but the closure of the sports centre for a period will lead to some loss of revenue.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Bottisham VC are expecting an Ofsted inspection though Ofsted are prioritising schools at risk so this could be several months away. We are confident in the school and its leadership. Netherhall is also anticipating an Ofsted inspection and once again we have every confidence.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Set Date time and venue of next meeting</b>
	<p>The date of the next AGM was set for Monday 20 January 2025 at 6pm.</p> <p>A General Meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12 June at 6pm.</p> <p>Venues for both to be confirmed.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 7.50pm</p>