



Nexus Board of Directors
Wednesday 21st October 2020 5 - 7.30pm
via MS Teams

Attendees:		
Andrew Child	Director / Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	Chair
Gill Askew	Director	GA
Steve Booth	Director	SB
Peter Castleton	Director	PC
John Coleman	Director	JC
Naveen Judah	Director	NJ
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Rachel Potts	Director/Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	RP
Sue Shelley	Director	SS
Also Present:		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Strategy & Partnerships	JH
Catherine Sands	Chief Finance Officer	CFO
Emma Sheedy	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Jacky Tattershall	Assistant CEO – School Improvement	JT
Apologies:		
Helen Bellinger	Director	HB

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
<p>1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from HB.</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from HB.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
<p>Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>2.1. Changes to Leadership Summits</p> <p>2.2. Bader School Day Variation</p> <p>2.3. Bader LGB Recruitment</p> <p>2.4. Independent School Application</p> <p>2.5. Land & Buildings Valuations</p>	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
<p>3.1. Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
4. TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the virtual Board Meeting held on 29th July 2020 were reviewed and agreed.</p>	
<p>4.2. Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
5. STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 FINAL DRAFT	
<p>The CEO extended thanks to Directors for their valuable input and support with development of the strategic plan 2020 – 2025.</p> <p>Following review of the final refinements, the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 was unanimously approved by the Directors.</p> <p>The Chair provided positive feedback following positive receipt of the plan, which he presented earlier alongside The Annual Report to the LGB Chairs Forum.</p>	

<p>6. ANNUAL REPORT – 2019-2020</p>	
<p>Directors unanimously approved the Annual Report – 2019 -2020.</p>	
<p>7. STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21</p>	
<p>The CEO talked through the highlights of the written report.</p> <p>SS queried current attendance rates and the CEO advised attendance is generally high – around 90% with some variation. The national average for Special Schools is 81% and all our schools are above this.</p> <p>RP queried the low flu vaccine uptake and the CEO commented he was also surprised with the low uptake and provided context.</p> <p>RP queried the payroll dummy run with the new provider and the CEO advised the live run for Bader was successful. A transition will now take place to the new provider and notice has been served/accepted by the existing payroll provider with no problems.</p> <p>The Chair asked JT for an update on her undertakings since September and JT provided a comprehensive overview.</p> <p>PC queried the expansion of Becton and the CEO provided a detailed update.</p>	
<p>8. MAT DASHBOARD</p>	
<p>The CEO provided summary of the changes to the MAT Dashboard as outlined in the written report.</p> <p>PC queried whether the MAT dashboard should go to the Standards Committee and the Chair commented he felt it was a Trust Board matter, which JC and the CEO agreed with. SS further commented that the MAT Dashboard could possibly go to Standards or Audit & Risk Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed for the MAT Dashboard to remain a Trust Board matter, as the work areas of A&R and Standards provide the triangulation of evidence & judgements for the full Board.</p> <p>GA queried the delays regarding procurement items and the CEO provided an update, with further information regarding issues at Becton.</p>	
<p>9. ACADEMIES DASHBOARD</p>	
<p>Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the CEO's recommendation for the Academies Dashboard to be referred to the Standards Committee for scrutiny around the areas for quality of education. The CEO provided an explanation regarding the new indicator for the quality of reading and writing. JC agreed and this has been added to the Standards Committee agenda.</p> <p>SB queried how this would go forward following discussion at Standards and the CEO advised he would address any issues identified with the Headteacher but Standards will be the commissioning committee.</p>	
<p>10. RISK REGISTER</p>	
<p>The CEO provided context and following discussion, the Directors unanimously agreed the Risk Register. It was agreed for the Risk Register to be referred to the Standards Committee as well as A&R. This has been added to the agenda.</p>	

<p>11. INTERNAL – TENDERING TIMETABLE</p>	
<p>The timetable for the internal audit was reviewed and the CFO asked for volunteers. The CFO advised this would take place virtually and it was agreed that RP, GA and NJ would be involved.</p>	
<p>12. BUDGET MONITORING</p>	
<p>The CFO provided an overview of the Budget Monitoring report and advised the final figures would be provided Friday 30th October.</p> <p>SB queried the deficits for Craggs, Hilltop & Kelford and the CFO provided context. Craggs was further challenged and the CFO explained this was due to Early Years and an accrual for funding needs to be added, which can be fully justified to the auditors. SB queried the Becton carry forward and the CFO provided context.</p>	
<p>13. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY</p>	
<p>The Medium Term Financial Strategy was tabled and an overview provided.</p> <p>SB asked for clarification if the MTF is a strategy or plan and the CFO confirmed it is strategy.</p> <p>The document has already been scrutinised in detail by Directors at the A&R committee, and was unanimously approved by Directors.</p>	
<p>14. TRUST COMMITTEE VACANCIES</p>	
<p>Following the resignation of Nick Hodge and further discussion, it was agreed for GA to be appointed to the Standards Committee and for a vacancy to be retained until the spring, when the Covid-19 restrictions may have eased and it makes recruitment of a replacement Director easier to facilitate.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerks to provide GA with dates of the meetings and add to Governor Hub.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>15. GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK IMPACT ASSESSMENT</p>	
<p>The CEO provided an overview of the impact assessment report. The only update required is regarding the RSE Policy and the CEO felt this should be referred to the Standards Committee, which was agreed. This will be picked up in the reporting of the CSIF delivery plan.</p>	
<p>16. HILLTOP LGB CHAIR APPOINTMENT</p>	
<p>The CEO provided context regarding the pending expiration of Sharon Biggin’s term of office as Hilltop LGB Chair and her expression of interest to be appointed for a further four-year term, which RP further endorsed. The Directors in attendance unanimously agreed for SB to be re-appointed.</p> <p>ACTION: CEO to update GIAS regarding the further appointment of SB.</p>	<p>CEO 25/11/20</p>
<p>17. NEW POLICIES</p>	
<p>The CEO outlined the need for a revised Complaints Policy and discussion/challenge was as follows:</p> <p>The Chair asked JT if the enhanced policy would be useful to Headteachers and JT advised it would provide a clear structure and be the first port of call.</p> <p>PC queried the procedure for complaints made against Headteachers and the CEO explained why this is not included and that this falls within the Whistle Blowing and or Safeguarding Policy.</p>	

<p>ACTION 1: CEO to add a sentence regarding complaints against Headteachers.</p> <p>RP queried if it is a Complaints & Concerns Policy and the CEO provided an explanation that it is a Complaints Policy. SS queried this further regarding the use of language around item 10.2. All agreed the language should be amended around policy section 10.</p> <p>ACTION 2: CEO to amend the use of language at section 10 of the Complaints Policy.</p> <p>RP queried section 4.5. which mentions the Chair by name and this was endorsed by AC, who prefers to be named.</p> <p>Conditional on the above changes being made, Directors unanimously approved the Complaints Policy.</p>	<p>CEO 25/11/20</p> <p>CEO 25/11/20</p>
18. POLICY REVIEW REPORT	
<p>All policies included in the Policy Update Report, namely; Bereavement, Charges & Remissions, Grievance, LAC, Privacy Impact Assessment, Severe Weather, Shared Parental Leave, Write Offs and Disposals were reviewed by Directors and unanimously agreed.</p>	
19. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>19.1. Self-Assessment Skills Audit SS queried if the Skills Audit will continue to be carried out and the CEO advised it would and the output analysis will be presented to the Chair and Board.</p> <p>19.2. Land & Buildings Valuations for Annual Accounts The CFO provided context and the concern raised from Hart Shaw regarding LA valuations. There was a lengthy conversation and the various options were tabled. Directors were not prepared to accept a qualification in the accounts for no valuations being provided, and agreed with the option of proceeding with the historical values and any amendment to be made in the revaluation reserve.</p> <p>19.3. Bader School Day The CEO provided context regarding the consultation with families to temporarily reduce the school day, due to challenging behaviour presented towards the end of the day by tired pupils, possibly a result of re-integration. Approval was sought for a temporary reduction to the school day by 1 hour from 3.30 to 2.30 p.m. One family has raised queries (not concerns), which school are responding to accordingly and assisting with child care. Directors unanimously agreed with the temporary reduction to the Bader school day.</p> <p>19.4. Bader LGB Recruitment The CEO provided context and it was agreed for Bader to have direct governance accountability to Directors (via the CEO) for the remainder of the 2020-21 year, after the final transition board meeting in December 2020. The recruitment process for Bader LGB, to commence in 2021-22, will be overseen by the Standards Committee. This has been added to the agenda. PC asked of the timescales and the CEO provided an update.</p> <p>19.5. Leadership Summits The CEO advised that the November Summit has been cancelled due to Covid-19.</p>	

<p>19.6. Independent School Application The CEO provided extensive context and advised of the delay to the opening of Discovery Academy to September 2022. The Chair queried if reserves can be used and the CEO advised that this was being explored. It was agreed for a discussion paper to be tabled at the next meeting on 25th November. This has been added to the agenda.</p>		
<p>20. REVIEW OF RISK</p>		
<p>To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Trust Committees.</p> <p>There were no items deemed as a risk beyond those discussed in the risk register or covering reports.</p>		
<p>21. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>		
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>There were no items deemed confidential.</p>		
<p>22. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p>		
Wednesday 25th November 2020	17:00 – 19:30	via MS Teams
Wednesday 16th December 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Members AGM Monday 18th January 2021	17:30 – 19:00	Venue TBC
Wednesday 27th January 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 24th February 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 24th March 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 28th April 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 19th May 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 23rd June 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Leadership Summit Tuesday 29th June 2021	16:00 – 19:00	Crags Community School, Maltby
Wednesday 28th July 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE