



**Nexus Board of Directors
Wednesday 24th February 2021 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
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
Jo Smith	Director	JS
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:		
Peter Castleton	Director	PC

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
<p>1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from PC.</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from PC.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
<p>Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>2.1. Public Procurement Regulations Consultation discussed at 15.1.</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>Declarations of interest were received for agenda item 14. and it was agreed the CFO, JH & JT would leave the mtg at the appropriate time.</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 27th January 2021 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. 2020 -21 STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE	
<p>Directors had received the Strategic Business Plan Update in advance of the meeting and the CEO provided a further verbal update regarding The Rowan Centre and the opening of RMBC's new free special school.</p> <p>SS queried page 2 and the means of recording vaccinations and the CEO explained that following consent this information would be captured and recorded on the HR system. The CEO also explained about communicating via weekly Staff briefings. There is a mixed vaccination picture across the Trust and the CEO will be requesting the vaccination numbers from academies in early March.</p> <p>RP queried the refreshed School Improvement offer on Page 1 and following discussion it was agreed for this to be the main item on the March TBoD agenda.</p> <p>RP queried if the CEO had received any feedback following AC & RP's attendance at LGB's during Spring 1 and the CEO advised of none but Governors appreciated their participation.</p> <p>SB queried page 3 regarding the growth of Pennine View and the CEO explained that RMBC's special schools are at capacity, therefore RMBC are exploring opportunities</p>	

<p>outside of the immediate borough and this would be a satellite provision. DMBC have been offered the chance to discuss growth but have declined to engage in any discussions, which the CEO said is their prerogative.</p> <p>SB also queried the Trust’s ICT & IG Strategic Lead undertaking consultant review work for a MAT in the West Yorkshire region and the CEO confirmed this would be paid. SB also commented positively about RMBC re-issuing the short breaks/extended services contract for a further 3 years.</p> <p>AC commended the new, temporary HR Consultant (Luke Hevingham).</p>	
<p>6. ACADEMIES DASHBOARD</p>	
<p>The CEO provided a verbal overview of the academies dashboard and the CEO advised of no complaints related to COVID-19.</p> <p>AC asked of any praise from Parents/Carers related to COVID-19 and the CEO advised yes, which is contained within LGB reports and also on social media.</p> <p>JC queried if any of the praise appears on the Trust/academies website and the CEO advised no. It was agreed for this to be captured. JT added this had been mentioned as part of the School Improvement meetings with Heads and work is already underway to secure inclusion of comments on school’s websites as a rolling wall. ACTION: CEO to capture praise from Parents/Carers related to COVID-19.</p> <p>SS queried item 1.6.2. regarding Stakeholder satisfaction and the uncollected laptops to facilitate remote learning. The CEO provided context and explained that some laptops had not been collected because pupils were invited to attend school. The CEO also spoke about the problems faced with infrastructure within the homes of Crag’s pupils but this is also a national issue. A discussion followed regarding the Summer School suggestion, with the CEO stating this is for mainstream secondary pupils</p> <p>RP commented how impressed she was following her attendance at Spring 1 LGBs regarding engagement and the schools continuing to strive for improvement. AC added how forward looking the LGBs were, with a clear focus on strategy and accountability.</p> <p>The CEO provided context regarding the structured interventions at Bader Academy regarding challenging behaviours. Bader will benefit from permanency and stability, therefore the Trust will be looking at a permanent Head of School during this half term, which will be reported in more detail to the Standards Committee.</p>	<p>CEO 24/03/21</p>
<p>7. VOYAGER ACADEMY PRE-OPENING UPDATE</p>	
<p>JH provided a verbal update and explained the 5-year development plan would not work for the Crookesmoor site as costs were prohibitive, at an estimated £1.2m initially. RPa queried the costing for the Crookesmoor building evaluation and JH advised it was £5k.</p> <p>Discussions have been initiated regarding an alternative site. This option would pose less risk, as it is currently an operational school which is being consulted on being closed. A decision regarding the closure will be made at the end of March.</p>	

<p>JH provided an overview of the legal advice from Brown Jacobson. JC explained why he felt this should not be contested by the ESFA. CEO explained it was always the plan to write to the ESFA to explain the venture and dispel any myths, and that the Brown Jacobson advice just brings that intent forward to be done now. A letter will go from the CEO and AC.</p>	
<p>8. BOARD ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT</p>	
<p>AC provided an overview of the Self-Assessment Report and Directors agreed with the recommendations;</p> <p>a) Agree to a future Board development/strategy meeting having a focus on understanding the elements that make up a broad and balanced school curriculum. It was agreed for this to take place at the March TBoD. JC suggested inviting HT's/subject Leaders for their CPD. ACTION: JT to explore inviting HT's/Subject Leaders to the March Strategy Meeting.</p> <p>b) Individual Directors contact the CEO to agree their own personalised individual learning plan in response to their self-assessment; and</p> <p>c) Individual Directors contact the Chair to discuss any additional areas of the board's responsibilities which they would like to contribute to in the future.</p> <p>GA queried if Directors are encouraged to attend an LGB to gain a cultural understanding and AC encouraged Directors to observe LGBs and volunteer themselves for recruitment processes/disciplinary panels etc. SB commended GA's offer as he feels this is very worthwhile. The CEO assured Directors that this must be balanced with their existing work/home commitments, as they all give a lot of time already for the routine business of the Board.</p>	<p>JT 24/03/21</p>
<p>9. BUDGET MONITORING</p>	
<p>The CFO provided an overview of the Budget Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the impact of the Balance Sheet change and SB commented positively regarding this.</p> <p>RP queried the £300k funding for Hilltop and the CFO advised this had been received.</p> <p>NJ had numerous queries and it was agreed for these to be discussed at the A&R Committee.</p> <p>SB queried Report 9.4. - School Fund Actuals and the CFO provided an explanation that addressed SB's concerns.</p>	
<p>10. POLICY REVIEW REPORT</p>	
<p>All policies contained within the Policy Review Report with the exception of the Expenses Policy were reviewed and approved by Directors.</p> <p>The CEO provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Expenses Policy and explained these relate to Central HQ. Following discussion, it was agreed to further discuss on 15th March and re-address at the March TBoD.</p>	

11. CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO 2020-21 PAY AWARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS		
Directors unanimously agreed with the Pay Award for non-teaching staff. The CEO will communicate this to the workforce, and thanked Directors.		
12. ROTHERHAM MBC FREE SCHOOL PRESUMPTION – CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST		
An overview was provided by the CEO and following discussion, Directors unanimously agreed to submit an expression of interest for the RMBC Free Special School.		
13. ETHICAL LEADERSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY		
JT provided a brief overview of the NGA Ethical Pathfinder Project and explained this will be discussed further at Standards Committee. SB & RP commented positively.		
14. CFO ISR REVIEW REPORT		
[The CFO, JH and JT left the meeting at 19:09]		
The CEO provided an overview of the report shared privately and following discussion Directors unanimously agreed to implement the recommendation with effect from 1 st March 2021.		
[JS left the meeting at 19:10].		
15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS		
15.1. GA offered her support regarding the Public Procurement Regulations Consultation and this was noted by the CFO.		
16. REVIEW OF RISK		
To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Trust Committees.		
There were no items deemed as a risk beyond those discussed in the risk register or covering reports.		
17. CONFIDENTIALITY		
To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.		
None.		
18. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS		
Wednesday 24th March 2021	17:00 – 19:30	MS Teams
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