



CROMWELL ACADEMY

Governing Body

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION
Full Governing Body
Meeting Thursday 15th December 2016
9.00am at Cromwell Academy

Minutes

ACTION GRID

Item	Action	Deadline	Responsibility
4	Keep Governors updated on Members' matters.	As appropriate	RL
4	Circulate the form received from the EFA to Governors.	ASAP	RL
4a	Contact Paul Hull regarding co-option as a governor	ASAP	RL
4b	Email the Chair with suggestions for suitable members	ASAP	All
5	Invite Rod Warsop to attend to the next FGB to discuss MAT and Ofsted.	ASAP	SB
5	Contact Suzannah Connell of The Diamond Learning Partnership to invite her to the next FGB.	ASAP	SB
5	Research MATs.	Before next FGB	All
5	SB to circulate documents regarding MATs	ASAP	SB
7	Update and circulate Governor Action Plan	Before next FGB	RL

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Present: Stephanie Baldwin (SB), Lauren Blyth (LB), Paul Davis (PD), Richard Laing (RL), Niall O'Neill (NON), Martin Savill (MS)

Also in attendance: Debbi Fairbank (DF – Finance), Kim Lague (KL – Associate), Sarah Barnard-Mitcham (Clerk)

	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including DF who was sitting in as she may be able to answer some questions.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence and Attendance Register</p> <p>Apologies – Richard Walmsley (RW – Clerk)</p>	
3	<p>Declaration of Pecuniary/Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>Noted that SB is sister to SBM.</p>	
4	<p>Update on Members' Matters</p> <p>RL explained that legal advice had been taken to establish the identity of the members. RL said that the RSC are examining the issue and have referred it to the EFA.</p> <p>Governors questioned the decision to pay for legal advice. The explanation of requirement of clarity on Members for publication of accounts within a short timeframe satisfied all governors.</p> <p>RL will keep Governors updated.</p> <p>RL to circulate the form he has received from the EFA to Governors.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>RL</p>
4a	<p>Request for Governors to convene meeting of members</p> <p>RL explained that as in Articles 20 and 21 the Governing Body have to formally request a members meeting.</p> <p>RL formally requested that a members meeting was held. Vote held: unanimous decision.</p> <p>RL said that the members are free to meet the following morning (16th December 2016). SB confirmed that they could have a meeting room at school.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding Paul Hull coming back to the Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor. This was agreed by the Governing Body. RL will contact Paul Hull.</p>	<p>RL</p>
4b	<p>RL agreed to meet with the other two legal members (Sophie Hill and Samantha Maske) the following day (16th December 2016) and they will</p>	

	<p>have a discussion regarding potential new members.</p> <p>Suggestions were made as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Graham Eliff</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">David Hill</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Craig Gannon</p> <p>RL requested that further suggestions are emailed to him.</p> <p>SB considered that Sophie Hill and Samantha Maske are very committed and will possibly stay on as Members.</p> <p>RL considered that it would be good to have 5 Members.</p> <p>DF noted that the Members should seek CVs of potential applicants in order to check skills and knowledge.</p> <p>MS suggested that there are procedures and guidelines going forward regarding appointment/resignations of governors and members.</p> <p>RL confirmed that this is as per the Articles of Association and the Governors are now satisfied they have a full understanding of appointment of governors and members.</p> <p>Governors asked whether the members have an official Chair. RL confirmed they didn't and that as Chair of Governors he also acts as Chair of member meetings.</p> <p>DF suggested that the process for appointments of governors and members is re-stated at the AGM so that there is an annual reminder.</p>	All
5	<p>Discussion regarding Multi-Academy Trusts</p> <p>RL gave a brief background regarding multi-academy trusts (MATs).</p> <p>RL said there is no pressure currently to go into a MAT (though such pressure may come in due course) but we need to think about it over the next few months. RL believed that there are four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To stay as a SAT knowing that we may be forced into one and have no input. 2. To form our own MAT. Would need to have a good educational model and governors to provide this benefit. 3. To join an existing MAT. 4. To join a school which is considering forming a MAT. <p>Governors asked whether the school could go back to being a maintained school. DF confirmed that this could not happen. The school could only be forced if it was a failing school (Requires Improvement) and then it would be forced to join an existing MAT or, if there was concerns from the EFA, then a SAT and they felt the SAT was not successful then they would be forced to join a MAT.</p> <p>RL explained that there have been two MAT meetings attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinchingsbrooke School. This is in early stages and not sure that their governing body is on board. Meeting attended by RL, SB and LB. • Godmanchester Community Education Trust. RL and SB met with Rod Warsop (RW), Executive Head. RW was very impressed with the set up at Cromwell Academy and keen for it to join their Trust. RW is happy to meet with the Governing Body to discuss this. <p>RL explained that there are a lot of advantages of going into a MAT i.e.,</p>	

	<p>opportunities to share skills, financially, staff development. The Trust has an executive head and each school has their own head and governing body. RW had confirmed to RL and SB that each school would have equal representation on trust.</p> <p>LB said that RW would not want 20 or so in MAT, just a small group.</p> <p>Regarding making our own MAT, RL said we should not rule this out but at the moment we don't have skills and knowledge to do this. The staff are great and school is and has a lot to offer but as Chair of Governors not sure we could convince other schools to come in with us. No need to make a decision now – needs thought.</p> <p>RL said it is for all governors to be involved in and not a working group.</p> <p>Governors asked if had any other information regarding Hinchinbrooke School MAT. RL said that it is in very early stages. They have 2 individuals from music agencies who are willing to sponsor. They wouldn't put it in any money but could bring pop stars. Hinchinbrooke chair of governors reminded the head at the meeting that it had not yet been signed off.</p> <p>It was agreed that SB would contact RW to arrange for him to come along to the next FGB. RW was also happy to come in to undertake a mock Ofsted inspection.</p> <p>It was also agreed that SB would also contact Suzannah Connell of The Diamond Learning Partnership to invite her to the next FGB.</p> <p>RL suggested that the Governors do some research on MATs on the internet. SB said that she had some documents she could circulate.</p>	
6	<p>Confidential items if appropriate</p> <p>None</p>	
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>RL asked if there was any other business.</p> <p>He thanked DF for attending the meeting.</p> <p>He will keep governors posted on RSC and EFA.</p> <p>Governor Action Plan needs to be updated (Action RL) and tied in to the school's other plans</p>	RL
8	<p>Date of next meeting: 26 January 2017 at 5.30pm</p>	

Agreed as an accurate record.

Signed: *Richard Lang*

Date: 19/1/17