



Company Number: 07977368

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday 9 December 2021 at 5.30 p.m. via Teams

Present:

Liz Holmes (LH) Chair and Member  
 Rev Jason St John Nicolle (JS)  
 Ian Wright (IW)  
 Paul Turner (PT)  
 Anthony Cook (AC)  
 Duncan Millard (DM)  
 Mark Greenwood (MG)  
 Christine Price-Smith (CPS)

In attendance:

Anne Lynn (AL) - COO  
 Louise Warren (LW) - Director of Education  
 Sandra Green (SG) - Clerk

Bob Wintringham (BW) - Member  
 Gordon Joyner (GJ) - Member  
 Dave Wilson (DW) - Member

Apologies:

Carrie Insley (CI)

### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1	Standing Item: Welcome, Apologies and Resignations	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LH welcomed all those present and thanked all for having read through the papers in advance of the meeting.</li> <li>Apologies were received from CI which were accepted. All others were present.</li> <li>LH reminded all present of the requirement to keep confidential all matters discussed until they were confirmed as being in the Public arena.</li> <li>The Members introduced themselves to the Trustees and vice versa. The Central Team members introduced themselves.</li> </ul>	
2	Standing Item: Notice and Quorum Requirements	
	The meeting was quorate.	
3	Standing Item: Declaration of Interest / Pecuniary Interests	
	None were made at this point in the meeting.	
4	Standing Item: Accuracy of the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 18 November 2021	
	Trustees <b>AGREED</b> the accuracy of both sets of minutes, which will be approved in writing by LH when the pandemic circumstances permit.	
5	Standing Item: Matters arising from previous meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items were updated as per Carried Over List.</li> <li>SG <b>CONFIRMED</b> that all other Carried Over items had either been dealt with or were included as agenda items or scheduled for future meetings.</li> </ul>	

6	<b>Standing Item: Out of Committee activities</b>	
	<p><b>a) Monitoring of Strategic Vision</b>  LH advised that DM/LH had met to discuss how to monitor the Strategic Vision as the previous methodology was not ideal. It had been decided that the new strategy would be for the schools to monitor their own improvement plans where it intercepted with the FLT Vision and would feed back on the impact of this on their schools.</p> <p><b>b) Revised Admissions Arrangements</b>  AL advised that all the Trustees had <b>APPROVED</b> the revised admissions arrangements document as circulated to them so it was not out for consultation with SHR – process concludes January 2022.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Board was not required to take any further action at this stage.</p>	
<b>STRATEGIC MATTERS</b>		
7	<b>Standing Item: Health and Safety</b>	
	No matters were raised.	
8	<b>Standing Item: Policies</b>	
	The Revised Admissions Arrangements Policy had been dealt with under Item 6, and there were no other matters to discuss.	
9	<b>Standing Item: Letters from DfES</b>	
	No letters had been received.	
10	<b>To receive the Annual Audited Accounts 2020/2021, including the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements</b>	
	<p>AL picked out salient points:</p> <p>Page 18 of the Trustee Report: Top 3 Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding</li> <li>- Recruitment and Retention</li> <li>- Natural disaster/pandemic, including Covid-19</li> </ul> <p>Finances are a little more secure – we have achieved the level of 3,000 pupils so are awaiting information on the funding, with an estimate of £500K for FLT.</p> <p>An estimate was calculated of CiF funding received over the last few years versus funding position and this was positive by about £200K, so we can move ahead.</p> <p>Page 35: Large Donation Capital Rainbow Grant = mostly JBI building = ££2.7M and other projects.</p> <p>Page 44: Additional CV funding helped FLT's position = just under £400K. Closing the schools saved us money.</p> <p>Page 52: Bringing to your attention that the LPS pension deficit is increasing as investments are not performing due to the difficult circumstances. They are in line with national trust figures and the deficit is underwritten by the DfE.</p>	

Q: Is the underwriting of the pension deficit by the UK Government indefinite or would a change of elected party make a difference?

A: It is indefinite as it was an integral aspect of setting up the Academy. It is shown in our accounts.

Page 55: Schools comparison:

The JBI deficit is improving and will turn a surplus in due course. The Head teacher is working hard to achieve this.

FJS has been allowed to use some of their reserves on major site issues in 2020/2021 as all are aware.

FIS has benefitted from late SEN funding of EHCP pupils and Year 4 Free School Meal Funding being paid in full.

Risks are:

a) Movement of FIS/FJS to Primary schools so the next two years will be pulling at their funding.

b) CV – impact on absence rates of staff is rising dramatically and supply teachers are hard to find too.

Good news is that FLT will receive Section 106 funding concerning closure of the temporary classrooms at FCC of just under £4M. Our original plan can therefore be reconsidered within the space we are allowed as no building on the sports field is permitted. We are unlikely to replace the classrooms until 2023.

Q: Does the Section 106 money belong to FLT or FCC?

A: To FLT from OCC as a funding agreement with conditions, i.e.:

- It is associated with the expansion of FCC
- It has to be as a direct replacement for those classrooms, i.e. we can't upgrade other parts of the school.
- We have to account for the money.

Q: When is the money 'in the bank'?

A: £1M is in the bank and the remainder is promised, related to the completion rate of the houses.

Q: What is the risk to FLT receiving the money if the houses are not sold?

A: There is a risk if that happens, although we are seeing those houses being built already. We may need to use Reserves before we can claw down so it is a case of "let's get the work underway".

Q: If costs are continuing to outpace funding will our Reserves increase?

A: Rising pupil numbers bring in more revenue but the risk is around the FIS/FJS conversion to primaries over the next couple of years as we won't know pupil numbers until March 2022. So it is an estimate, but there was no double counting of Staff or Pupils.

FCC will be the biggest gain but the surplus will be reduced as there is an increase in demand for Support Staff as well as Teaching Staff. FCC has a 9 form entry and a Sixth Form which is growing, for which the Wilson Block was specifically built.

	<p>Q: Did you have any recommendations from Critchley's reporting, AC?</p> <p>A: AC: A very good discussion was held with them and I am very satisfied with Critchley's understanding of our business, issues and the quality of their feedback. I recommend that the Annual Audited Accounts, Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements are <b>ACCEPTED</b>.</p> <p>A: AL: I have uploaded their Management Letter in which they have made several point – all of which are of a low rating and some which I am disputing with them.</p> <p>A: AC: We recognise that the points made are small and minor. Critchley's recognised the excellent basis and work done.</p> <p>AL: To advise you that we have recruited a new Finance Manager, who has an ideal background. There are also some finance processes which I wish to streamline with her help.</p> <p><b>AL thanked Jane Cole</b> for her fantastic work as Finance Manager and delight that she is remaining with FLT.</p> <p>The Board <b>thanked AC, AL and the Financial Team</b> for their hard work on this matter.</p> <p><b>It was confirmed that the Board ACCEPTED and APPROVED the Annual Audited Accounts for the period 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021, including the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements had been reviewed and certified as a true representation by Critchleys whom it considered to be competent to so do.</b></p> <p>The Management letter from Critchleys would be given due consideration by the Members.</p>	
11	<b>CONFIDENTIAL Item</b>	
	See separate Confidential Minutes.	
12	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<b>There was no other business.</b>	
	<b>Close of Meeting</b> - Meeting ended at 6.54 p.m.	

Approved and Signed off by:

Date: