



Venture Multi Academy Trust. Company Number 7535379

Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

Monday 18th July 2022 at 5pm, held via zoom.

Present	Julia Dodson - Vice Chair Harry Hart (from agenda point 8 until agenda point 9) Ian Raggett (from agenda point 4) Andrew Mercer Ben Jones Alan Honeybone (from agenda point 9)
In attendance	Krystal Warren (LGB) Jack Wilson (LGB) Tiffany Pope (LGB) Sam Newman - Governance Professional Jo Long - COO Will Johnson - CEO

	Item	Person
1	Apologies, welcome and quorum The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Philip Robinson. The meeting was quorate in line with Venture MAT Terms of Reference.	
2	Declaration of business and pecuniary interest There were no new declarations of business or pecuniary interests.	
3	Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (23/05/22) The Trustees agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate representation of the meeting. Committee minutes: SIS: 19/05/22 and 07/07/22 The CEO expressed that the governing board seems a lot stronger than it has been previously. Feedback will go back to the LGB. A trustee questioned how this would be fed back to the LGB. Answer: Quality of challenge is good, monitoring visits are strong, new members have complimented the team. The CEO confirmed he would pass this back to the LGB. F,GP & Audit: 04/07/22 The Vice Chair was happy to approve the minutes.	
4	Parent survey results <u>Ian Raggett joined the meeting.</u>	

	<p>Survey results from TLA were discussed All results found were overwhelmingly positive. There were 4 pages of additional positive comments for the school. Every area of the school got a mention of how great they were. 2 parents strongly disagree to all questions, their comments however have been outstanding, so assuming it may be a confusion. 83% of children are happy at TLA. Concerns dealt with by the school, the ones that have raised concerns felt they had been dealt with. Key themes, when talking about school at home, the most common was forest school, surfing, outdoor learning, spanish and PE being enjoyed by all. Areas for improvement - wider range of after school clubs, support from external professionals (SEN) Streamlining parent communication.A Trustee Will this go onto the website? Answer: Yes, we can put it on the website. A trustee asked what the role of a trustee is in regards to this? As a trust, should we be thinking about anything specific? Answer: We can gather information about safety and SEN but sometimes more information around pupil voice is quite good detail for LGB's. It may be good for trustees to have more information around the monitoring visits. SN can share monitoring visits with the trustees once completed. Most monitoring visits involve a session with pupil conferencing. A trustee shared that although the data is good, is it relevant for the trustees to be looking at it in any further detail? Answer: It is a very broad picture, triangulation for how the school is performing.</p>	SN
5	<p>Latest Budget Monitoring Report This report is to let all trustees know that it has been uploaded. Due to the budget and finance meeting being so close to this meeting, there is no need to go through it again. No questions arose from any trustees.</p>	
6	<p>COO update (Inc. Data Protection) Sound financial position at Venture MAT. Headlines taken from the last budget report. SLA's - COO has listed the services that VMAT buys into. One still outstanding - internal assurance, previously the trust had used Cornwall Council LFS team, to check and ensure that we have good, adequate controls in place, they no longer give that service so we need to outsource this. SIS insurance renewal doesn't include the minibuss, they need a registration number which the lease company has not yet provided. Staff absence insurance - this will be finalised this week, ensuring we get the best cover for our money. Internal controls - listed how the trust operationally achieves good controls, ensuring not the same people are responsible for ordering, invoices, procedures. Little cash is held at TLA, SIS does not generate a lot of income. Risk management - Policy is on the agenda for review to be approved at this meeting. WJ and JL looked at the risk register and financial risk register, removing some risks now mitigated and adding new ones. Financial assurance checks, other assurance in key areas of risk ie; GDPR, HR and standards, shows how we provide this assurance to you through the board. Access to accounting systems list shown. Outstanding debt must be declared over £1k, there were no individual debts greater than that. A few smaller debts under £500 at both schools. Year end accounts and audit - Francis Clark will be providing this service again, the date is 3rd October, earlier than previous years, essentially to focus and get it done and processed, this will then be ready to present to trustees in December.</p>	JL

	<p>Data protection - progress from last audit report, achieved everything we needed to work on, with one outstanding next step.</p> <p>The DPO is to rewrite some policy around data sharing for staff.</p> <p>Reviewed KPI's for data protection, all achieved.</p> <p>A trustee questioned why the LA stopped offering the service?</p> <p>Answer: Most ex LFS teams are working within the finance department, they are struggling to do the required work.</p>	
7	<p>Budget 2022/23 (as recommended by F & GP)</p> <p>All Trustees were happy to approve the budget which was recommended by the F,GP and Audit Committee.</p> <p>JL will submit this tomorrow.</p>	
8	<p>CEO update (Inc. Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Data)</p> <p>Assessment data discussed:</p> <p><u>Harry Hart joined the meeting.</u></p> <p>The VMAT KS2 Year 6 SATs results in reading, maths and grammar.</p> <p>This includes children from TLA's ARB.</p> <p>Reading, writing and maths combined is 68%.</p> <p>Breakdown for individual scores, 80% for maths, reading 77%, writing 79%.</p> <p>School pictures for KS2, the children have performed well in both settings.</p> <p>These will be looked at again in the Autumn.</p> <p>A trustee asked how many children there were in total, including the ARB..</p> <p>Answer: Approximately 70 in total, taking ARB pupils out would make it 59 children.</p> <p>EXS for reading 80%, maths 83%, writing 81%, combined 70% achieving EXS.</p> <p>Well above the national average.</p> <p>Almost 40% of the cohort are disadvantaged, the national scaled score is 1 point lower in reading, lower in maths and equal in SPAG.</p> <p>A trustee asked what they think that may have contributed towards these results.</p> <p>Answer: The teaching has been of better quality than previously they may have had, managing to get a lot more learning done.</p> <p>The level of expected work returning from the pandemic was straight off the mark. Back to our best, driven to get the children back to their best before anything else. We are seeing strong recovery in that area.</p> <p>SIS have posted their best results ever, proportionally 6 out of 7 passed the exam.</p> <p>The only area they dropped down in was SPAG, another child didn't pass it.</p> <p>A stronger score in reading and maths than the national average.</p> <p>Combined is a strong picture.</p> <p>KS2 are the only robustly comparable results, it is the best marker for progress.</p> <p>Particularly in SIS, the depth of the writing is there now, it has had a huge impact.</p> <p>When we compare how much writing we do with other schools, we write a lot more.</p> <p>Demographic breakdown discussed.</p> <p>Identifying where disadvantages perform lower, boys less than girls etc.</p> <p>The reading gap between male and female is 10% across the MAT, these are markers to use, the trust will continue to look to close the gap further.</p> <p>Writing is just over 10% again between male and female, disadvantaged too.</p> <p>Maths, boys are doing better than girls, these will give us a benchmark on how to improve this and spot trends.</p> <p>A trustee questioned if the variance between males and females was always there.</p> <p>Answer: Other years it varied in terms of the cohort, classic gap of around 10%, some years as little as 3%, up to 15%.</p> <p>Interesting to see the national gap.</p> <p>KS1 results are also strong.</p> <p>13 in year at SIS and 60 at TLA.</p> <p>SIS had no disadvantaged pupils or SEN.</p>	

	<p>TLA under 5% SEN Results are typical of this. SIS 81% reading, writing 69% and maths 84%, consistent teaching through the year. TLA is consistent across all. Reading 63%, writing 65% and maths 67%. Attainment is usually in the low 70's. Teacher assessments, these are not externally marked. GDS is lower than we would like. A trustee challenged what the school's plan was, to address the GDS and seek improvement. Answer: No real change in approach, hoping that they are coming from a place of a full year of school, this year had a disrupted term/year. Recognising them early to ensure they have the opportunity to correct it quickly. A trustee asked if it was being suggested that it was more of a covid issue? Answer: Yes, a lot of breaks within their year, staff absences occasional too. Attain usually 20% in KS1. Phonics screening check at SIS - 82%. TLA - 93%. Multiplication check yr 4 at SIS 29% full marks. TLA multiplication check 50% full marks. This is the first year of this, yet to see any school with a bigger mark than TLA with full marks. Statutory data is looking strong. Key measures taken ARB children out and added in brackets for a realistic assessment of the children without the children that haven't taken part in the tests. TLA expected to be in the 70% range. Writing - attainment always slightly lower, year 5 will stick out slightly. GDS moderation to ensure we identify those children correctly. Year groups to focus on are year 5 cohort, huge disadvantaged children 46%, current year 4 with a high percentage of SEN. A trustee asked if the SEN being referred to was just on the SEN register, or did it include EHCP's. Answer: Registered on support with EHCP's. SIS - Reading, year 4's looking lower attainment. Maths is fairly consistent across the board. 2 cohorts - year 5's, not attaining the EXS in all 3 areas. MAT is performing well in statutory tests. What has been done post pandemic has been successful to this point. Attaining high for the KS1 cohort. Years 3 and 5 for focus at TLA, years 5 and 6 at SIS. Priorities for next year were discussed. Continuation of Oracy, Nursery curriculum and Environment, Science curriculum, year 3 and 5 vulnerable groups, managing SEN in mainstream and Music curriculum. SIS - Computing curriculum, phonics screening check, Science curriculum, Year 5 and 6 vulnerable year groups, MTC Year 4, Music curriculum. Ongoing projects and other key priorities: TLA - the outdoor environment project, Arbor communication app, online safeguarding tool review and specialist NPQ's for further CPD. SIS - parent app communication, online safeguarding tool review, specialist NPQ's for further CPD and SENCO award CPD. <u>Harry Hart left the meeting.</u> A governor asked about the current year 3 and 5 targets, was it referring to the current or next year's cohort? Answer: Next year's cohort.</p>	
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	<p>A governor asked about what plans were in place for the current 5's for improving this going into year 6?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, plans with both the Year 6 teachers to focus on this, early tutoring, continuation of good teaching.</p>	
9	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Phone Policy • Online Safety Policy • Safer Recruitment Policy • Risk Management Policy • Accounting Policy • LGPS Employer Discretions Policy <p>All existing policies due for review. The last two policies were for review in August however were moved forward.</p> <p>No significant changes. Accounting Policy was the capitalised items (over £1k)</p> <p>Safer Recruitment Policy has been incorporated with the KCSIE updates for 2022. One policy has Sean's name on, this needed to be changed.</p> <p>Employer discretions. Tracked the changes to see anything I have changed, from Sean Powers to Will Johnson.</p> <p>All policies were agreed to be approved by all trustees.</p> <p>JL and SN will be looking at the policies in the new academic year to try to bring down the amount of policies that need to be brought to the trustees.</p> <p>A trustee asked if that means that the trustees will have no accountability for them?</p> <p>Answer: It may be that there won't be a lot that won't come to you as trustees. We will always ensure there is no risk and it is compliant.</p> <p><u>Alan Honeybone joined the meeting.</u></p>	
10	<p>Governance matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCSIE Updates 2022 <p>This will be shared with trustees in September.</p> <p>Governors responsibilities.</p> <p>Child on child abuse rather than peer on peer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training <p>Breakfast meeting at 8:30am, attend online or in person, WJ to send a link. (SN to send)</p> <p>A governor asked if there was any possibility of a joint trustee/governor meeting in the future?</p> <p>Answer: This could be looked into and discussed next year.</p> <p>The governors thanked the school on their behalf.</p> <p>IR to send an email of thanks to all school staff on behalf of the trustees.</p>	
11	<p>Confidential items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One item <p>Separate minutes have been produced for this agenda point.</p>	
12	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 26th September at 5pm.</p>	

Agenda point	Action	Person
4	SN to share all monitoring visits with the trustees.	SN
6	Source now internal assurance provider - to be approved at the next	JL

	meeting.	
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Meeting closed by Vice Chair at 19:02pm

Signed as an accurate record.....

Print name.....

Date.....

Please note that these are draft minutes until signed off by the Chair at the next meeting.