

## Trust Board Minutes

9.30am 12th January 2021, via Zoom

**Attendees:** Andrew Needham (Chair), William Bagnall (Trustee), Maria Dawes (Trustee) Peter Eyre (Trustee), Simon Jarvis (CEO), Andrew Majury (Trustee), Jo Smithson (Trustee)

**Present:** Andrew Lloyd (Member), Catherine Anwar (Member), Su Whelan (Member), Neil Hopkins (Member), Rebecca Davis (TS AQC Chair), Paul Edwards (Finance Director), Vince Scannella (Academies Improvement Director), Becky Young (HR Director) and Kate Thomlinson (Trust Administrative Assistant)

Meeting opened 9.30am

### 1. Standing Items

- Apologies: Alan Poole (Director of Operations)
- No further interests declared.
- No safeguarding issues arising from items on the agenda.
- Minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 approved.
- Matters Arising
  - *VS updated the Board on the counselling provision at TS.*  
As of 19 December 2020, TS had 13 students who are working with a counsellor and 45 on the waiting list, a total of 58. Last year there were a total of 47 students who, by the end of the summer, had either been seen, currently being seen or who were on the waiting list. SJ has spoken to TS and SFCF Principals and the SLT's are due to report back to the Trust on their requirements for expanding counselling provision.
  - *VS gave an update on the home schooling situation at TS.*  
Of the pupils who are currently electing to be home-schooled, four were Y11 and one was in Y9. They are not followed up by the School once they come off roll as they become the responsibility of the Inclusion Team. There is a dedicated officer who works with EHE (Elective Home Education) children. Before they are taken off roll, TS make sure that the home situation is safe as well as working with the families to make sure that this is the right decision for them.
  - *VS previously circulated to Trustees, via email, the work being done by TS to close the disadvantage gap.* Measurement of the disadvantage gap was clarified.

### 2. Financial Management – Annual Audited Accounts 2019-20

The Accounts show an operating surplus of £932k with unrestricted reserves of £4.7m. Net current assets of £4.8m. No additional government COVID funding has been accessed. The academic performance of both Academies has been maintained. The positive financial position of TPT was noted by the Board.

AM, as Chair of ARC, reported that the Audit opinion was 'good' and both the internal and external auditors had praised PEd and his team for all their hard work.

**Board Action: The Board** recommended the Annual Audited Accounts 2019-20 to Members for approval at the AGM.

*Morag Roddick from Eversheds-Sutherland joined the meeting*

### 3. Strategic Developments – Frimley Church of England School

#### 3.1 Frimley Church of England Junior School

A brief summary of some of the issues surrounding Frimley CofE School joining the Trust was provided. MR then took questions regarding concerns relating to the necessary revision of the Articles, as outlined in the paper.

There is a more detailed summary of this discussion in the Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Annual General Meeting.

**Board Action: The Board** noted the ongoing matters for resolution in the revised Articles of Association for recommendation to Members at a later date.

**Board Action: The Board** noted the current status of the Memorandum of Agreement for recommendation to Members at a later date.

*Morag Roddick left the meeting.*

#### The Board Meeting was interrupted for the AGM (10.35am)

After the AGM, the Members left the meeting and the Trust Board Meeting reconvened at 10.50am.

### 4. Finance Policy

The Finance Policy has been updated: to reflect changes in the Financial Handbook 2020; because of new systems that have been implemented within the Trust; to increase practicality, particularly during COVID.

**Board Action: The Board** approved the Finance Policy January 2021

### 5. People and Operations

The updated paper was positively received by the Board for clearly demonstrating the overlap of Teaching & Learning with Operations and for placing the Curriculum at the centre of the Trust. The name of the Trust Management Board will be changed to Trust Executive Board to more accurately reflect the role of this tier of Trust management.

**Board Action: The Board** agreed to the proposals set out in the Review of TPT Senior Management Structure (v2)

## 6. Safeguarding

Safeguarding update to be postponed until the next Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, notwithstanding the items discussed under 'Matters Arising'.

## 7. COVID Update

VS informed the Board that the Mastery training session due to take place at TS had been cancelled due to COVID.

The Trust have agreed to a request from Simon Reigh (SFCF) for additional funds to help those students who have fallen behind but do not qualify for government catch-up funding. Due to the restrictive nature of the government catch-up funding, very few College students who could benefit from such funds qualify for the additional support.

SJ informed the Board of the admirable positive attitudes of both Catherine Cole and Rob Major. The excellent response of both Principals to the ongoing crisis was commended by the Trustees.

## 8. Calendar

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (Trust Advisory Forum)

The meeting closed at 11.35pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Andrew Needham, Chair of the Board of Trustees**