

PART I MINUTES

TRUST BOARD MEETING

OF

THE LEARNING ALLIANCE (TLA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

HELD online ON MONDAY 21st March 2022 at 10:50am.

Present:

Mr D. Wootton (Chair)
 Mr A. Pear (Vice Chair) (AP)
 Mrs C. Thomson (CT)
 Mr M. Ashcroft (MA)
 Mr R. McCluney (RM)
 Mr R. Armstrong (RA)
 Mrs S. Dempsey (SD) (Until 11:30am)

In Attendance:

Mr M. Cladingbowl, CEO (MC)
 Mr D. Twambley – COO (DT)
 Mr A. Howells –Director of Quality (AH)

Clerk: Mrs C. Gritton

Absent:

Mr A. Greenstein (AG), Mrs J. Millward (JM)

Part 1

Administration	Action
1. The Chair <u>welcomed</u> everybody to the meeting. <u>Apologies</u> were received and accepted from JM and AG and the meeting was <u>quorate</u> . 2. There were no Declarations of interest for the matters on the Agenda. 3. Paper 3.0 The <u>Minutes</u> of the Board meeting held on 31 st January 2022, uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting, were approved and will be signed by the Chair on GH. <u>Matters Arising</u> – The Action Log was updated as noted thereon and there were no Matters Arising.	
4. Reports (Exception) from Committees	
4.1 <u>Finance & Staffing Paper 4.1 Finance and Staffing</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received . Items considered by the Finance and Staffing Committee had been process developments, progress of the Trust wellbeing programme, recruitment, attendance, gender pay-gap reporting, the approval of the support staff pay award, budget setting process and School-Resource Management Self-Assessment and Trustees noted the report and actions taken by the Committee as recommended therein. 4.2. <u>Audit & Risk Paper 4.2 Audit and Risk</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received . Items considered by the Audit and Risk Committee had been a review of external and internal scrutiny and a detailed review of the Trust rRsk Register and Trustees noted the report and actions taken by the Committee as recommended therein. 4.3. <u>LGB Matters to Share with Trust Board</u> – Nothing to report.	
5. Strategic Matters	
5.1 <u>School updates Paper 5.0 School Update</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received and noted as recommended therein . A Trustee reported that it is likely that examinations will go ahead this year, but that national attendance figures are tracking in the wrong direction and it appears that there will be a significant number of students nationally, who do not manage to sit examinations due to Covid. The Trust will therefore remain mindful of the need for contingency planning for any TLA students not able to sit examinations. 5.2. <u>Governance Review – Initial Findings Paper 5.2 Governance review Risk Update March 2022</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received . Trustees were reassured that there had been no	

<p>items in the report of which they had not been aware to some degree and that AH had identified the issues and had a clear plan as to how to address them. Trustees noted that LGB capacity was currently in the hands of a small number of individuals, namely LGB Chairs and were reassured to note that AH was looking to address this. ACTION a: The Chair and AH will meet to discuss this in more detail asap and ACTION b: AH will resend out the Trustee Survey and asked that Trustees complete this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees asked what plans were in place to enhance reporting between the LGBs and Trust Board. It was reported that AH is preparing a risk assessment action plan, which will be regularly reported to the Audit and Risk Committee, in the first instance in detail and thereafter exception reporting as appropriate. AH was currently assessing where action plan responsibilities ought to lie. • Trustees were reassured that the Trust’s governance structures were fit for purpose and asked how the structures work for Governors and Headteachers, what value they derive from the structures and to what extent the Trust needs to ensure parents understand how governance works and what the benefits are for TLA students. It was reported that AH’s focus had thus far primarily centred on engaging with LGB Chairs, but had recently naturally turned to Headteachers and there is an appetite for shared practices across the Trust. Governor recruitment is challenging in some schools and AH and the governance team are working closely with Headteachers and Chairs to ensure that skills’ audits are being utilised to drive recruitment, that Governors represent the communities the schools serve and that there are clear induction and training programmes for the role of Governor. <p>5.2.1 Trustees were encouraged by the work AH had undertaken so far and advised the continuance of the role of critical friend in order to fulfil the TLA aim of having exceptional governance</p> <p>5.3. <u>Proposed reorganisation of RSC Offices</u> It was reported that the Trust had received a letter from the DfE, advising that there are going to be changes to the Regional Schools Commissioner areas and it is thought that TLA may go into North West. ACTION: The CEO will keep Trustees apprised of any developments.</p> <p>5.4. <u>Strategic safeguarding update</u> – It was reported that the Safeguarding Trustee, AP, was having connectivity issues and was currently not in the call. The Chair therefore reported that TLA schools’ safeguarding reviews continue and safeguarding continues to be strengthened across the Trust. ACTION: A note on safeguarding will be prepared and disseminated to Trustees.</p>	<p>Chair/ AH</p> <p>CEO</p> <p>AP</p>
<p>6. Operational Matters</p>	
<p>6.1. <u>Data Reporting Paper 6.1 Data Reporting</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received. The report covered data critical areas for the Trust’s effectiveness such as identifying core data and the frequency of collation and reporting, the use of dashboards and plans to work with stakeholders. Trustees noted the contents of the report and the actions taken as recommended therein. Trustees were pleased to receive Paper 6.1a Data Pack March 2022 and Paper 6.1b – DC Pro- Dashboards and Reporting and ACTION: further detailed guidance will be provided at the Trustee Away Day to ensure all stakeholders understand the sensitivity of data and what ‘good’ looks like. Trustees SD and MC were asked to steer this discussion.</p> <p>6.2. <u>Risk Register Paper 6.2 TLA – Risk Register – Risks relevant to meeting agenda items</u> uploaded to GH prior to the meeting, was received. It was reported that risks would continue to be considered in detail by the Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>6.3. <u>Health & Safety</u> It was reported that the Trust had supported its schools with Health and Safety issues and where relevant, had assisted with mitigations to reduce the likelihood of repeat issues. Health and safety reports will form part of the dashboard data reports in future.</p>	<p>COO/SD /MC</p>
<p>7. Feedback form Trust Board to LGBs</p>	
<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>8. Trustee Visit Dates</p>	
<p>8.1 ACTION: Trustee visits to schools will be arranged asap and face to face Board meetings will be held at schools’ sites.</p>	<p>AH to assist</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	
<p>9.1 Future Board meetings will be scheduled for 3 hours rather than 2.</p>	
<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: Trustee Away Day Monday 23rd May 2022 at 9:30am. Meeting closed at 12:06pm</p>	

ACTIONS From March 2022 Meeting

ACTION	By When	By Whom	Confirmed Complete
5.2a The Chair and AH will meet to discuss the governance review in more detail asap.	ASAP	Chair/AH	
5.2b : AH will resend out the Trustee Survey and asked that Trustees complete.	23/05/22	AH/Trustees	
5.3 The CEO will keep Trustees appraised of any changes regarding RSC.	ASAP	CEO	
5.4 A brief update on safeguarding will be disseminated to Trustees.	ASAP	AP	
6.1 Detailed consideration will be given to data and new dashboard utilisation	23/05/22	COO/SD/MC? CEO/COO	
8. Trustee visits to TLA schools will be arranged	23/05/22	AH to assist	
From 31st January Meeting			
5.4 The CEO and COO will give consideration as to whether it might be appropriate to provide the Board with further information about national safeguarding issues such as sexualisation and to provide assurance on recent safeguarding issues arising in schools.	Summer term meeting	Trust Board	
From 18th October Meeting			
4.1 The Trust Board will seek to appoint a Trustees with extensive financial knowledge and experience to support oversight and challenge in this area.			Set for end 2021 school year
DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 23rd May 2022 Trustee Away Day at 9:30am			