

THE MAST ACADEMY TRUST

Meeting	Venue	Time	Date
Trust board	Scissett Middle	6.30pm	Wednesday 7 th
	School		December 2022

DFE	10357163
Start of meeting	18:30
Close of meeting	20:32
Attendance	88%

Present		In attendance	
Name	Role	Name	Role
Philip Marshall	Chair of Trustees	Melanie Humphreys	Executive Administrator
Philip Oldfield	Trustee	Sorrel Hellewell	Clerk
Dorcas Atkinson	Trustee	Natasha Greenough	CEO
Tim Wade	Trustee	Jason Field	CFO
Liz Godman	Trustee	Donna Waddington	BFS headteacher
Anthony Wilkinson	Trustee	Ifsheen Akhtar	SFS headteacher
David Webster	Trustee	Ben Lunt	Prospective Trustee
		Absent with (Consent
		Name	Role
	_	Absent without	t Consent
	_	Name	Role
		Richard Sowerby	Trustee

Apologies for absent and consent	Welcome and introductions were made by all present in the meeting. RESOLVED: Absent without consent were from: Richard Sowerby – Trustee	
Declarations of interest	RESOLVED: Mr Webster noted he was a former colleague of Mr Lunt's and therefore declares an interest in voting for Mr Lunt to join the Trust Board. Mr Webster will not vote for the appointment.	
Confidentiality reminder	Trustees were reminded by the Chair of Trustees that a Trustee role is confidential, and all information and documentation shared should be treated as such.	
22 Presentation	role is confidential, and all information and documentation shared	

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 There has been a lot of parents coming to visit the school who are out of area.

Q: What is the school's expectation of pupil numbers?
A: The max capacity the school can hold is 90 children which is 30 children per class, making it 15 pupils per year group. The school are aiming for 10 pupils to start in reception in 23/24.

Q: What distance from the school is classed as out of area and how have parents who are out of area heard about Birdsedge First School?

A: Out of area is classed around 3 miles and a lot of the potential parents are from Penistone. The school now offers breakfast and after school club.

Mrs Akhtar noted the following points on Shelley First School:

- There has been a lot of changes at the school in the last two terms.
- The early years provision in the school was not as effective as it could be. The school has adjusted the layout to open the early years area which enables the outdoor and indoor area to be used at all times, this area has become a real strength for the school.
- GLD (Good Level of Development) was 78% last year and is predicted at 83% this year. There are 25 children in this cohort.
- Key stage one data is currently at 74% which is an upwards trend as last year it was at 69%.
- There has been a drop in greater depth and this is now an action on the school improvement plan to increase this.
- The school has introduced teaching mastery and are embarking on a mastery ready journey.
- On the school improvement plan there is an area for developing subject leads and making sure teachers have a clear understanding on their subject and how it should be taught.
- The new read to write scheme has been introduced in the school. The scheme provides helpful resources which enables teachers to teach English better.
- Phonics score was 86% as there were four children who did not pass the test. The school has implemented interventions for these four children.
- The school has seen improvements in writing, maths, and other subjects.
- Sono tracker has been introduced and is used for core and none core subjects. This has been embedded in staff's weekly practice.
- The CPD calendar has been created and it has been built for Shelley First School and Birdsedge First School to moderate together.
- The school's PAN is proposed to be reduced to 30 pupils and is in consultation. This decision has been made as there were some classes with 36 pupils in and some with

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	 only 25 pupils in, and classes had mixed year groups in them. The school is first choice for 25 pupils and is named on 63 school applications for 23/24 academic year. The deadline for school applications is 17th January 2023.
	There was a discussion between Trustees around knowing what the schools' "wish lists" are and how Trustees can help achieve these.
	ACTION: Mrs Waddington and Mrs Akhtar to let Trustees know their "wish list" for their schools.
	Mrs Waddington noted this year she is creating a structure so the school can function without her being there full time. She has completed NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) training this week and can start in January. She has started to make links with other schools and will try to form external support for other schools SEND needs and look at their provision. This will bring in extra money for the school.
	Mr Marshall asked Trustees to let him know any suggestions on presentation topics they would like to take place in the next upcoming Trust board meetings.
	ACTION: Trustees to let Mr Marshall know of any presentation topics they would like to take place at the upcoming Trust board meetings.
	Mrs Waddington and Mrs Akhtar left the meeting at 7.12pm.
Representation	It was noted that Mrs Gail Howe has resigned as a Trustee.
	RESOLVED: Mrs Gail Howe has resigned from the Trust Board on 19 th October 2022.
	Mr Marshall noted he has had a meeting with Mr Lunt regarding the role of a Trustee and Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Greenough have interviewed Mr Lunt. Everyone involved feels Mr Lunt would be a great Trustee to join the Trust Board and his knowledge around IT would be welcomed. The next step to Mr Lunt's appointed would be the Members' approval which will take place at the Members meeting which is being held next week.
	RESOLVED: All Trustees voted and approve Mr Lunt to become a Trustee subject to statutory checks and for the approval to be ratified at the Members meeting on Wednesday 14 th December 2022.
	Mr Marshall noted Mr Sowerby has not attended any meetings as a Trustee since 17 th March 2022 and the last Trust Board meeting he attended was 8 th December 2021. Contact with Mr Sowerby has been tried but with no success. Mr Sowerby

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The following items were discussed under matters arising.	
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27 Organisation updates from collaborative team	Mr Field to circulate potential w amounts for apprenticeships for year-olds. RESOLVED: Mr Field noted the been circulated yet. There is on member of staff within the Trust would affect and any previous regarding the wage increases if apprenticeships has been resolved and governors with more information from the regarding the new Teams 'Governor's collaborative sharing and discustrategy and the financial costs strategy and the financial costs strategy to the next Trust board Wednesday 7th December 202 RESOLVED: Complete Personal Truster of-living crisis package once age RESOLVED: Mrs Greenough to email Truster of-living crisis package once age RESOLVED: Mrs Greenough to complete of-living crisis document after the ACTION: Mrs Greenough to circost-of-living crisis document to cost-of-living crisis document to the for Trustee consideration: Dec 2022 CEO and operational update CIF projects 23/24 MAST AC minutes 17Nov22_draft MAST FC minutes 28Nov22_draft Trust Staffing and Standards and Effectiven Committee 8Nov22_draft Trust Staffing and Standards and Effectiven Committee 8Nov22_draft Executive summary Current challenges for the Trust Staffing update Finance update (CFO) Operations update (CFO) Operations update (TOO) Mrs Greenough noted the following points from her Birdsedge and Shelley First School have be closely together and this is going well. Mrs Waddington has an ambition to support and has visits from other external headteach how she implements her strategies. Peer reviews have taken place in the middle around reading, writing and mathematics. Tireviews showed strengths and weaknesses schools.	is has not ally one st who this issues for all of the distribution of the cost-greed. CEO update are meeting. Total of the distribution of the cost-greed. Total of the c

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- Wider networks were set up in September, but these have now been withdrawn due to low interest. Meetings with the local authority are taking place in January around how the Trust can collaborate with them.
- The Trust are continuing to work with Spring Grove in relation to school improvement activities.
- The Trust have been notified about strike action, two teaching unions are under ballot which is due to end in January and the Trust has received notification for intention to ballot. The Trust has a good relationship with unions and have termly meetings. The strike action is against the sectary of state, not the schools or the Trust.
- The Trust will revisit emergency decision making powers.

Q: Has the Trust ever faced strike action before?

A: No, not as a Trust.

Q: Are the protocols in place currently?

A: Yes, all protocols are in place, risk assessments etc.

Q: If any of the schools must shut, will home learning take place? A: Yes, children will be directed to home learning if the schools need to shut.

Q: Have there been any changes made to the emergency decision making policy?

A: No, the policy has been approved and no changes have been made, the Trust would just like Trustees to refresh themselves with the policy in case an emergency decision needs to be made.

Mrs Greenough noted the following points on the white paper / education bill

- It is not clear how important it is on the Government's agenda for schools to become academies.
- Aspects around quality assuring trusts seem to be clearer.
- The education bill will not be taken through the parliament.

There was a discussion held between Trustees around the new executive leadership structure and noted the following points:

- Both the middle schools need to keep their own uniqueness and individuality.
- A document needs to be created on each middle school's individuality and then this can be looked back at in, for example, 12 months' time and re-assed to ensure this has happened.
- It would be good for the new structure to be put in the Trust's newsletter.

RESOLVED: Trustees ratified the external leadership structure in the middle schools at the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022.

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RESOLVED: Interviews for the executive headteacher have taken place and Trustees ratify the appointment of Mr Christopher Taylor.

Q: If Mrs Waddington wants to go out to other schools to help, does this then become a service?

A: This is being considered within the Trust, this will enable the Trust to receive extra income. The headteachers within the Trust are good marketing assets.

Mrs Greenough noted the sponsorship application has been approved. The Trust have received an email from the regional director wanting the trust to help and support another school starting in January. By having the sponsorship this means the Trust can take on schools who have a room for improvement Ofsted grade.

Mr Field noted the following points regarding Finance and Operations:

Finance update

- The revenue surplus is £65,000.
- The Trust are investing £191,000 in capital projects this vear.
- The overall revenue reserves now stand at £825,000 which is reduced from £950,000 last year. This represents reserves of around 10% of total income.
- Final draft accounts have been uploaded into the meeting folder this morning.
- The Trust are in a good position at the end of this year.
- There is over £1,000,000 in CIF projects and the results of the CIF projects will be announced in May.
- The council has agreed to put £130,000 towards Scissett Middle School project.
- The pay award is unfunded and will be costing the Trust around £200,000 to £250,000.
- Meetings are taking place with the schools regarding forecasts and a message has been sent out to staff around looking at expenditure and if there are any staff expenditure costs, they will need to go through the CEO.
- Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation are going to be made regarding capital expenditure and changes to staff profiles need to be agreed with the CEO.
- The Trust are in a better position than a lot of other Trusts.
- There has been an announcement from the government around £2.3 billion per year for the education budget for 23/24 and 24/25. This will only be a 5% increase and will match the pay awards and inflation.
- There will be 6% to 7% of reserves left at the end of the year.
- The Trust will receive £75,000 to spend on capital funding. The Trust will look at the school's asset

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management plans to prioritise what the money should be spent on.

- External audit has taken place and there has been no major findings.
- Procurement of new photocopiers for three of the schools has commenced and will run into the new year.
- Catering is going well throughout the Trust.
- The procurement of the grounds maintenance contract has taken place, and the current contractor was offered a one-year extension in line with the contract awarded last year. This procurement will be complete by next week,
- The procurement of Payroll and HR management systems is now complete. The Trust will now move away from Kirklees and will be implemented in April 2023. The new system is called Edupay, and the company specialise in the education sector.

Update from Mrs Atkinson, Chair of the Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness Committee.

- The meeting was the first merged committee meeting that has taken place and it went well.
- It was noted there will be a consultation taking place regarding professional standards and a mobility clause being added into contracts.
- The pay awards, pay progressions and an individual pay rise were approved.
- Link school trustee roles were agreed.

Resolutions from the Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee (8th November 2022) for note at the Trust Board on Wednesday 7th December 2022.

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee approve the proposed pay awards, and all proposed pay progressions in the Trust.

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee agree and approve for the Trust to give the Headteacher at Birdsedge First School a pay rise above their pay grade.

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee approve the ratings of the risk register, as they are outlined for the Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee.

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee approve the scheme of delegation following the termly review.

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness Committee approve and ratify the following policies:

- The Mast Academy Trust Code of Conduct
- The Mast Academy Trust Grievance Policy
- The Mast Academy Trust Pay Policy Addendum
- The Mast Academy Trust Disciplinary Policy
- The Mast Academy Trust ECT Induction Policy
- The Mast Academy Trust Equality Statement

The Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee agree there should be a working group that consists of chair of

governors from both middle schools and three Trustees to approve the proposal of an executive leadership model.

Update from Mr Wade, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

- Cyber security training will take place for governors and trustees.
- Discussions took place around concerns that the first schools do not have offsite backup's currently which is a small risk. The Trust will look at the backup's being moved offsite.
- Merge of the Audit and Risk Committee and Finance Committee was discussed and agreed.
- The new HR system was discussed.
- It was agreed to have a more detailed review on the risk register every couple of years.

Resolutions from the Audit and Risk committee (17th November 2022) for note at the Trust Board on Wednesday 7th December 2022.

The Audit and Risk Committee approve the ratings of the risk register, as they are outlined for the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk committee approve the scheme of delegation following the termly review.

The Audit and Risk committee approve for Scissett Middle School register of interest to be completed with one governors' declaration from 21/22 and the Trust board register of interest to be completed with one Trustee declarations from 21/22.

The Audit and Risk Committee approve and ratify the following policies:

- The Mast Academy Trust Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Policy
- The Mast Academy Trust Whistleblowing Policy The Mast Academy Trust Mobile Phone Policy

The Audit and Risk Committee approve the proposed dates for the remaining academic year 22/23, Thursday 9th March 2023 at 6pm and Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 6pm.

Update from Mr Webster, Chair of the Finance Committee.

- Pay award was discussed in the committee meeting and it was agreed the CFO will create some scenario planning for future years.
- Capital bids were discussed and agreed only the must do bids to take place this year.

Resolutions from the Finance committee (28th November 2022) for note at the Trust Board on Wednesday 7th December 2022.

The Finance committee agree accounts should go to the Audit and Risk committee to be signed off and then be presented to the Members.

The Finance Committee approve the ratings of the risk register, as they are outlined for the Finance Committee.

The Finance committee approve the scheme of delegation following the termly review.

	The Finance committee agree to become a joint committee with the Audit and Risk committee for the remaining academic year.	
²⁸ Safeguarding	Mrs Greenough noted safeguarding training has been carried out within the Trust and there have been no additional referrals since the last meeting.	
²⁹ Trustee updates	Assurance visits	
	Mr Marshall noted he has had one to one catch ups with all Trustees over the last month.	
	Training	
	Cyber security training has been sent out on Friday 25 th November 2022. Once Trustees have watched the training, please email Mrs Hellewell to let her know.	
	 Safeguarding took place in October 2022. Mrs Hellewell noted she is waiting to receive the safeguarding quiz from the Trust's SENDCO and safeguarding lead. Once quiz is received, she will send the quiz out to Trustees. 	
	ACTION: Mrs Hellewell to send all Trustees safeguarding quiz once available.	
	Mrs Humphreys noted the Trust wider curriculum training in 'Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Computing and Science' will be taking place on Monday 23 rd January 2023 at 6pm at Scissett Middle School.	
Trust focus and discussion	The 'Marketing Strategy_updated' document was shared with Trustees prior to the meeting.	
	Growth including marketing strategy	
	Mrs Humphreys noted the following points: The executive team had a meeting to discuss the brand of the Trust and it was agreed to add the wording "multi" to the Mast Academy Trust.	
	Discussions have taken place with heads around adding the Mast Trust in their wording on their websites etc. and it was agreed the schools will add "proud to be part of the Mast Academy Trust". New signs for all the schools are being investigated.	
	 New signs for all the schools are being investigated. The video outlined in the marketing strategy has been put 	
	 on hold due to budgets. Mrs Hellewell is looking at increasing social media. The Trust will have a Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn account. 	
	 Currently all plans going forward will be on a no cost basis. 	

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	 The Trust are looking at holding an open evening for school leaders and other governing bodies to come and talk with staff in the Trust. The Trust are emailing identified schools in the Barnsley area to see if they would like more information about the Trust. Mrs Greenough has been linked with a small school local to the Trust who needs some support. The Trust needs to look at whether recruiting some small schools into the Trust would be financially efficient. Q: Should the Trust consider having a conversation with the regional director to look at whether taking on small schools is efficient? A: Yes, a conversation would be a good idea. Mrs Greenough noted she is looking at contacting local high schools to make initial conversations. Q: If all the schools who the Trust contact wanted to join the Trust, what would you do? A: The Trust has a strategic plan in place and in this plan, there is a section around decision making and due diligence. Mr Wilkinson noted there is a no profit organisation in Honley that could help the Trust with marketing, and it could be worth looking into. ACTION: Mrs Greenough to investigate the no profit organisation in Honley suggested by Mr Wilkinson, which could help the Trust with their marketing strategy. Mr Wade noted direct outreach to schools is the best marketing strategy currently. The Trust need to make sure there are materials ready to give out to prospective schools and to staff/governors and trustees in the Trust so they can also help promote the Trust. A discussion on what makes the schools individually unique needs to take place and ensure this happens. 	
31 Risk Register	The 'Mast_ RiskRegister_Autumn Term_ academic year 22_23' was shared with Trustees prior to the meeting for review and discussion. • Risk ID 21, 90 and 91 are all at a maintained level. • Risk ID 51 is proposed to archive. Trustees requested for strike action to put on the risk register. ACTION: Mrs Humphreys to add strike action on the risk register as a new risk. RESOLVED: The risks at board level were reviewed, discussed, and approved.	

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	RESOLVED: The risk register approvals were noted from the committees.
	RESOLVED: Trustees ratified the risk register for term 1 of the academic year.
Scheme of Delegation	Mrs Humphreys noted the scheme of delegation has been reviewed and there has been no amendments to note. There will be changes being made in the spring term.
33 Policy update	The following policies are requested for ratification: • The Mast Academy Trust Admissions Policy Mrs Humphreys noted the Trust Admissions Policy is currently in consultation as Shelley First School are lowering their PAN to 30 pupils per class and Kirkburton Middle School are increasing their PAN to 173 per year group. The
	consultation closes on 23 rd December 2022. RESOLVED: Trustees ratify the Mast Academy Trust Admissions Policy if any amends are required following consultation Trustees' delicate further ratification to the Staffing and Standards and Effectiveness committee on Teams.
	The following policies were noted as approved and ratified at the Board Committees:
	 The Mast Academy Trust ECT Induction Policy The Mast Academy Trust Equalities Statement The Mast Academy Trust Whistleblowing Policy The Mast Academy Trust Business Continuity and Disaster recovery Policy The Mast Academy Trust Pay Policy Addendum The Mast Academy Trust Staff Code of Conduct Policy The Mast Academy Trust Staff Grievance Policy The Mast Academy Trust Staff Disciplinary Policy The Mast Academy Trust Mobile Phone Policy
	RESOLVED: The policies listed above were noted by the Trust Board.
34 Important documents to note	The following documents had been provided to Trustees prior to the meeting for information:
	Draft accountsMast AGM 14Dec2022
	RESOLVED: Trust Board noted receipt of the documents.

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35	Any other business	RESOLVED: There were no items brought up under any other business.
36	Future dates for meetings of the Trust Board	RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Trust Board would take place on: • Wednesday 14 th December 2022 at 3pm - Members meeting • Wednesday 29 th March 2023 at 6.30pm – LGB peer review • Wednesday 24 th May 2023 at 6.30pm • Wednesday 12 th July 2023 at 6.30pm Mrs Humphreys noted Trustees are welcome to attend one of the governing body meetings in the spring or summer term. ACTION: Mrs Hellewell to send Trustees the dates of the school's peer reviews and for Trustees to let Mrs Hellewell know if they would like to attend one of the governing body meetings.
37	Agenda, minutes, and related papers to be excluded from published version	RESOLVED: A matter discussed in item 4, 9 and 12 has been excluded from the minutes for confidential reasons.

Summary of Actions

Minute Reference	Action
M4_07122022	Mrs Waddington and Mrs Akhtar to let Trustees know their "wish list" for their schools.
	Trustees to let Mr Marshall know of any presentation topics they would like to take place at the upcoming Trust board meetings
M8_07122022	Mrs Greenough to circulate the cost-of-living crisis document to all Trustees.
M11_07122022	Mrs Hellewell to send all Trustees safeguarding quiz once available.
M12_07122022	Mrs Greenough to investigate the no profit organisation in Honley suggested by Mr Wilkinson, which could help the Trust with their marketing strategy.
M13_07122022	Mrs Humphreys to add strike action on the risk register as a new risk
M18_07122022	Mrs Hellewell to send Trustees the dates of the school's peer reviews and for Trustees to let Mrs Hellewell know if they would like to attend one of the governing body meetings.