



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W. T. Hermon

16/7/19

Minutes

An Daras MAT Members' Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 1.30pm at ADMAT Central Office

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Ann Nicholson, Margaret Young, Eva Paynter, John Searson (Eden), Paul O'Brien and Will Hermon

In Attendance: Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

TM formally noted that the Chair of the Board, Brian Jennings has recently resigned and that a new Chair is being sought. In the meantime, the Vice Chair, Graeme Barriball is covering as acting Chair. The Members asked TM to chair the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests Relevant to this Agenda

None declared.

3. Approve Previous Minutes

No actions required. Members agreed the minutes were an accurate record and PO'B signed a copy.

4. Confidential Agenda Items

None.

5. An Daras MAT Strategic Update

a. Update on MAT Top Risks

Pressure on the finances was discussed in detail and the reality of the budget was noted. Staff costs increase year on year but the funding is not increasing and so each year it gets tougher and tougher to balance the budget. The biggest risk with tight budgets is being able to maintain standards in the schools, when there are less staff than previously. WH noted sponsorship status is being sought and JS noted management partnerships of some maintained schools with MATs can lead to a journey that sometimes leads to said school joining the MAT.

WH noted that an ever increasing risk is the infrastructure across the MAT; the school buildings are showing their age and there are a number of issues such as sewage systems, boilers, damp etc. CIF bids are being submitted for this work, some of which are not always successful and there are also lots of hidden costs such as planning, environment agency applications and so on. JS questioned whether a list of work exists

that prioritises infrastructure maintenance across the MAT and WH confirmed this is being worked on.

b. **Growth (including Princetown update)**

WH updated the Members of Princetown joining the MAT and also noted a pre-school that may be joining the MAT, and linking to one of the schools. He highlighted the areas that are being looked at in terms of growth.

c. **Outline Standards/Data (Key Strengths and Key Weaknesses)**

St Catherine's and Princetown schools have moved from RI to Good on their latest OFSTED inspections. However, the attainment data across the MAT is a mixed picture and not as strong as it could be but this is starting to show the results of less staffing and the lack of budget to provide individual support to some children. The Members discussed the issues and where the key strengths and weaknesses are.

d. **MAT Vision, Ethos and Curriculum Framework**

WH explained the new Vision & Ethos, including the theological underpinnings, and how this will be woven into the new research-led capabilities curriculum. He also noted that measures are in place for measuring impact. The new logo was noted and the point that the Trust is here to advance the education of the children. It is not a business, although many of the current stipulations in the Academies Financial Handbook necessitate a business like approach to running a MAT.

e. **Key Issues**

Covered at items 5a, b and c.

f. **The Positives**

It was noted that there are positive OFSTED reports for St Catherine's and Princetown, and a thank-you letter from the RSC was received. WH noted key points from the reports, including the partnership with PT.

Staffing wise there are promotion opportunities for staff across the MAT (2 internal appointments of Head of Schools), and opportunities for teachers to move from small to larger schools and vice versa, and to continue their development.

Infrastructure wise – ARB conservatory replaced at St Stephens, Coads Green outdoor classroom completed and Windmill new classroom completed.

6. **CEO Report**

No further questions.

7. **MAT Governance Review**

TM briefly explained the recent governance review of the full Board and committees, including a skills audit and the use of the 21 Questions a MAT should ask themselves. She also noted the new cyclical plan for Director meetings and business that across a year ensures that everything from the AFH, Governance Handbook, OFSTED framework and many other direction/guidance is adhered to and covered.

8. **Director Recruitment**

TM noted the skills gaps and asked Members to keep the need for recruiting new Directors in the back of their minds.

9. Approve External Auditor

Members are required to approve an external auditor for Autumn 2020. Two quotes have been asked for and acknowledged but not yet received. All members agreed that they are content to be sent an email from the Governance Officer with the quotes and recommendation from the CEO, and will confirm their decision in writing. Alternatively if necessary, the decision can be made at the January general meeting.

10. Any other Business

JS noted the new model articles and WH noted that legal advice on An Daras articles will be received from Browne Jacobson as part of the Princetown academisation process. The articles will be changed if necessary and the Members will approve as a Special Resolution.

11. DONM

The plan is to have an AGM in the summer term and a General Meeting in January each year (a total of 2 meetings per year that allows for business to be done in a timely manner, and an interim update between the AGMs). The next general meeting will be on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 1.30pm at the Central Office. The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 1.30pm at the Central Office.

The meeting closed at 3pm.

TJH Martin
ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

P. O'Brien – Member
E. Paynter – Member
A. Nicholson – Member
M. Young – Member
Eden Member – John Searson represented
W. Hermon – CEO Director/Executive Head

Copy to: Sarah Owen, Eden Clerk