



**An Daras Trust**  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W. T. Hermon

11/05/2021

## Minutes

### **An Daras Multi-Academy Trust Members General Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 1.30pm at ADMAT Central Office and via Zoom**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Graeme Barriball (Trust Board Chair/Member), Margaret Young (Foundation Member for Askel Veur), Sue Lockwood (representing Foundation Member Eden), Eva Paynter (Member), Chris Marshall (new Member), Andrew Terry (new Member)

**Apologies:** Paul O'Brien

**In Attendance:** Will Hermon (Trust Leader/CEO), Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

In accordance with article 25, the Chair of the Trust Board & Member, Graeme Barriball chaired the meeting. All were in attendance in person with the exception of Sue Lockwood (Eden) who was present via a zoom audio and video connection. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

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

None declared, less MY declared an interest regarding a confidential item.

#### **3. New Members**

The Members were sent information on two potential new members prior to the meeting. Chris Marshall is retired military and has experience of risk management, project management, business, IT & finance. Andrew Terry has a background in education and used to be the Head of School at one of the trust schools (WHA). The Members agreed that both would be a valuable addition to the team. AP, GB and MY signed the special resolution and a signed copy was received from Eden by email during the meeting. With over 75% in favour, the special resolution was passed, and both Andrew Terry and Chris Marshall were appointed as members.

#### **4. Approve Previous Minutes (6<sup>th</sup> October 2021)**

No actions required. The Chair signed a copy. Approved by the Members.

#### **5. Confidential Agenda Items**

Updates of two projects covered under confidential items.

#### **6. Presentation of Accounts**

Presentation of year-end audited accounts as at 31 Aug 2020; these were previously provided to Members. Accounts submitted to ESFA on time and no comment or query received from ESFA. WH updated on a few minor issues noted on the external audit that have been addressed, the reserves and the positive budget. **Are pupil numbers in one of the schools still considered a risk?** CG numbers are looking better but Princetown is usually a risk with regards to numbers as it is such a small school. However, Princetown are managing their budget and seem to be picking up pupils

from other areas. The Head of School is very proactive, and is raising the profile of the school in the community.

## 7. An Daras MAT Strategic Update

- a. **Update on Covid 19/Risk Assessments/Blended Learning/School Attendance and Routine**  
Schools still operating in a bubble system and Covid controls are still in place for the summer term. Nothing further to report on this matter.

b. **Recovery Plans**

Schools are working through the recovery plans and adapting them as the children make progress. Internal assessments are being conducted and it is assessed that children will not be at the standard they should have been at by the end of term, and will likely start the September term behind where they would have been. This will be factored in for the September curriculum. Some schools are stronger than others; SC is being monitored but it is likely to be partly due to the method of data capture at the start. Funding promised for recovery has not all yet been received; only 2/3 of promised funding from the first lockdown has been received so far. More funding was promised for the second lockdown but this is also yet to appear. In the mean time, the trust is funding this recovery and this may impact on reserves if the government funding does not materialise. **How is the mental health of the children as this seems to be an issue following lockdowns?** There has been an increase in mental health and safeguarding issues/referrals and this has a knock on effect with the workload of the staff. **How many more safeguarding referrals have you had compared to a normal period?** There is an increase of approximately 25% more cases and notably it is across all schools and backgrounds. Cornwall schools have been allocated a mental health worker to work with the schools on a regular basis and assist staff and children with mental health matters. It appears that this provision will continue in future which is a positive move. SL confirmed that there is support for Devon schools but it is limited. Members noted that it is important to recognise that mental health concerns creates more work for staff and it will take a toll on the staff's mental well-being too.

c. **Update on MAT Top 3 Risks**

(1) Loss of key leadership has been mitigated against and there have been no issues so far, but it is always a potential risk. School leaders have shown great resilience and proactivity but it has been hard work. **Have the Trust Board considered succession planning to cover the CEO?** GB updated that Jo Callow has been trained, covered for Will's duties, and sat in Board meetings. Also there is capacity built in to HR to support Sam Cardew. It was also noted that the Trust board has a wide range of skills and experience, and there is a chair succession plan.

(2) The financial drain required in maintaining the properties across the trust continues, especially as buildings get older. This is always going to be a drain on trust finances that takes funding away from the actual education issues. Condition Improvement Funds have been received and used for better school fencing ( a positive for safeguarding) and new heating system at SSCA.

(3) Covid 19 related issues regarding staff, pupils, finances, governance etc is still in the top 3 risks at present but everything has been managed well and no issues have been highlighted. Future risks now sit with Ofsted and SIAMS.

d. **Future Plans**

Covered under confidential

MY left the meeting.

**8. Any other Business**

Ofsted inspections are overdue due to covid and although our schools are overdue, none have any particular issues such as safeguarding, and are not likely to receive a visit soon.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

TM has produced a Members role and responsibility document. There are 2 main tasks that are time tied: (1) receive the accounts but that can't be until at least Jan and (2) Appoint an auditor for the autumn term of one year, that has to be done the previous autumn latest. The auditor selection is more important than receiving the accounts because the latter are already approved and submitted. So the plan is to keep the AGM to October (appoint auditor). Then have a short general meeting half way between in the spring term to receive the accounts. Directors or members can be appointed at either meeting.

Provisional date for AGM is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 1.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

**Distribution List:**

P. O'Brien – Member

E. Paynter – Member

M. Young – Member

C. Marshall – Member

A. Terry - Member

Eden Member – Sue Lockwood

G. Barriball – Chair Board of Directors

W. Hermon – CEO Director