



An Daras Multi Academy Trust

Central Office
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CEO – W Hermon

25/01/19

Minutes

An Daras MAT Members' Meeting Friday 25th January 2019 at 10.30am at ADMAT Central Office

Note that actions are highlighted in bold and red, and will be carried forward to the next meeting and questions or challenges during the meeting are highlighted in bold and blue

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Ann Nicholson, Margaret Young, Eva Paynter, John Searson (Eden), Brian Jennings and Will Hermon

Apologies: Paul O'Brien

In Attendance: Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

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

None.

3. **Approve Previous Minutes**

No actions required. Members agreed the minutes and the Chair signed a copy.

4. **Confidential Agenda Items**

None.

5. **Presentation of Accounts**

The accounts will have been approved by the Directors and submitted to ESFA. WH briefed in outline the issues that occurred with the budgets last year including inconsistencies in staffing, overtime, different terms and conditions, and staffing levels that were not within budget. Correct HR processes were followed and a full staff review was conducted and implemented. WH noted that there was a concern that with the changes to staffing and budget issues, that the MAT may drop the level of reserves available but he confirmed that the MAT has been able to stick to its reserve policy. WH noted that the reserves will be pooled across the MAT and used where needed. JS confirmed that this is happening across other MATs. BJ discussed some detail of the implementation and **MY agreed that pooling reserves is sensible but challenged whether there will be a fair process for schools to draw on the reserves as required?** WH confirmed that when the reserves are pooled, it will be alongside a policy and process for drawing on reserves.

Bishop Fleming conducted the external audit and the accounts were presented to the Members.

JS challenged that on reading the accounts and financial statement that there was no mention of the church ethos yet he is aware that it is in place and positive progress has been made at Lew Trenchard. WH agreed to ensure this is included in future.

JS commented that the management of the in-year deficit and ensuring a level playing field with staffing across the schools was absolutely the right thing to do. All members agreed.

6. An Daras MAT Strategic Update

a. Update on MAT Top 3 Risks

WH explained the risk assessment process that produces the risk register and how the top 3 risks fall out from this. He noted that most of the top risks are outside the control of the MAT. The Members discussed some other potential risks including the potential closure of a local business that could lead to some families moving away. WH discussed school standards and the levels that are achievable with funds available, and he noted potential OFSTED inspections for SC and SSCA. JS questioned whether the MAT has sponsorship status. WH confirmed that we have a management partnership with Princetown and sponsorship status might be something for the future.

b. Outline data/performance for 17/18

WH highlighted performance data for 17/18. Progress was within national average bands but WH was hoping for better progress, although attainment was fine. He discussed a few specifics and the opinion of the improvement officer (also OFSTED inspector). WH highlighted the current data picture and some issues and positive points across various schools.

c. Outline MAT Improvement Plan for 2019

WH highlighted the improvement plan layout and briefly discussed the MAT teaching and learning priorities including vision and ethos, IT provision, attainment and progress for certain groups including boys, rolling out Visible Learning to the smaller schools, family engagement, embedded trauma informed schools and middle leader development.

d. Update on Local Governance Review Implementation

Governance Officer reported positive progress in this regard and that in general governors are content that it is a more structured approach and a better use of their time.

e. Staffing Update

Covered previously.

f. Growth Plans (if any) and Princetown Update

A new plan will be written soon. The previous growth plan has been met less one school. The Members discussed the ethos for the MAT and how this affects the growth plan.

7. CEO Report

Nothing further to add from previous discussions.

8. MAT Board Membership

Members met Peter Hague, who has a significant finance background, and agreed that he should fill the vacant place under article 50 "Member appointed Director". Members signed

the resolution and with more than 50% signatures, the resolution to appoint Peter Hague under Article 50 was passed.

9. **Any other Business**

None.

10. **DONM**

Date of next meeting confirmed as Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 1.30pm at Central Office.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

P. O'Brien – Member/Chair of Board

E. Paynter – Member

A. Nicholson – Member

M. Young – Member

B. Jennings – Member

Eden Member – sent via Eden Clerk

W. Hermon – CEO/Director

Copy to: Sarah Owen, Eden Clerk