

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OF THE ACTIVE LEARNING TRUST**

***held on Tuesday 4th October 2016***

***at The Lansdowne Club, London***

Directors Present: Mr J. Beswick Mrs J. Cutchey

Mr G. Hely Hutchinson Ms M. Lloyd (Chair)

Mr G. Peile Mrs M. Toft

Members Present: Mrs H. Capron Mr R. Dool

Also Present: Mr D. Hilton (Director of Standards)

Mrs K. Jarvis (Clerk)

Mrs J. Parke (Director of Primary Standards)

Mr C. Paskell (Director of Finance and Operations)

Invited Guests: Mr C. D’Cunha (Principal of Chantry Academy)

Mr J. Wing (Exec Head Burrowmoor & Neale-Wade)

**MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Ms Lloyd opened the meeting by welcoming all present and introductions were made. She welcomed Mrs Helen Capron and Mr Robert Dool, the two Members that were appointed at the last meeting. Apologies were accepted from Ms Adams, Mr Bush, Mr Kerr & Mr Staite.

**2. HEADTEACHER PRESENTATION**

Mr D’Cunha and Mr Wing gave an informative overview of the changes in secondary examination procedures and outcome judgements, including explanation of Progress 8 and Attainment 8. Both Chantry and Neale-Wade Academies subscribe to PiXL, which helps the schools to assess pupil progress individually and offers resources to fill the gaps identified in learning. They advocated the merit of exposure to test papers.

Mr Beswick sought and received clarification on the use of Solo Taxonomy. Ms Lloyd asked Mr Hilton to explain how this has been introduced at the Isle of Ely and Chesterton primary schools. Mr Hilton explained that children are encouraged to take what they know and build upon it. It was agreed that this could be an interesting subject to discuss in more detail at a future meeting, linking how the work across primary and secondary is impacting directly on standards.

Mrs Cutchey asked how prior attainment is measured in subjects outside of English and Maths. Mr Wing and Mr D’Cunha explained that they are heavily reliant on primary school data, but there is strong reliance on maths and English outcomes to help assess prior attainment, eg Science is set by using Maths data.

1. **Chantry Academy**

The following was noted in addition to the written report circulated prior to the meeting:

* Prior attainment was well below national average
* School was in Special Measures at the start of the year
* Staffing restructure led to redundancies and a number of other changes in staff across the school
* Progress measures provided evidence that overall achievement had improved by one third of a grade
* Staff were disappointed with 38% - which shows a change in culture from previous years where this would be seen as progress
* Chantry had a poor reputation, but now is the school of choice for the majority of local students with a rising role – Mr D’Cunha anticipates being full in Year 7 for Sept 2017
* Ofsted Parent View in 2015/16 stated 30% would recommend the school – this has changed significantly and in 2016.17 95% of parents who commented would recommend the school
* The Maths department has been overstaffed – this is a deliberate move to build capacity
* The most recent Ofsted visit graded Behaviour and Leadership as ‘Good' and the academy was taken out of special measures

1. **Neale-Wade Academy**

The following was noted in addition to the written report circulated prior to the meeting:

* Although Progress 8 scores were good, the academy felt that there was still much to do in terms of overall attainment r
* Progress 8 lower for pupil premium students, but there remained
* Number of Pupil Premium students was 81 – number of SEND students was 6
* Overall pupil numbers are increasing – PAN is 300 with 258 current Year 11 students
* Expect to be full in Year 7 for 2017
* Two full time staff members work with vulnerable pupils at NWA – MT reported that NWA are proactive in this

Mr Peile asked if NWA planned to use the surplus above that suggested by the board as being sensible for a school (more than 8%). Mr Wing stated that this will be reduced in year as initiatives to support teaching and learning in the academy come into effect such as students work with universities and PiXL events, which are aimed at raising aspirations.

Mr Peile asked Mr Wing about work with primary schools. Mr Wing spoke about the transition work taking place with all feeder schools, and about the subject expertise NWA offers Burrowmoor Primary School such as PE and the Arts. He particularly mentioned a French week that NWA staff had led on for pupils that did not attend a residential trip to France. Mr Wing also spoke about a recent Open Evening for primary school pupils that included potential pupils for Littleport and East Cambs Academy. The evening gave pupils and parents the opportunity to see an Active Learning Trust school model.

Ms Toft referred to a recent report about a high increase in exclusions nationally. She pointed out that ALT schools work hard to ensure exclusion is a last resort.

Following a suggestion from Mr Bateson, it was agreed that data on safeguarding and mental health issues be included in future reports. He suggested ALT should consider whether mental health issues are covered effectively in schools, or is there something more that could be done centrally. Mr Bateson also asked if destination information could be provided for leavers.

Mr Beswick asked if information was available on Young Carers. Both Principals reported that schools are aware of young carers and work is in place to support them, including trips and respite care. Mrs Wheeldon stated that carers of siblings should be included. Principals confirmed that this is already the case.

Mr Dool asked if transition could be improved. Mr Peile replied that both schools invest greatly in working with all feeder primary schools, and standards of transition work have improved greatly. Mr D’Cunha reported on how Chantry have worked on this at hub level by using RAISEonline data to identify areas that need additional input. This year’s focus will be on maintaining a high level of transition work after May SATs, leading to Summer school work.

Mr Dool asked why the NWA teaching budget was 4% (of overall budget) more than at Chantry. Mr Wing and Mr D’Cunha explained that this is reviewed each year and staffing numbers change as required and we noted that Chantry had sought to increase staff in the Maths department.

Summarising statements included:

Mr Dool: Chantry was a poor school for six years, despite potential in the community – this is now changing.

Mr Wing: Chantry is now in the position that NWA was in three years ago – and moving in the right direction.

Mr Peile: both schools are good places to visit – with staff and pupils obviously there to work – and he is proud that they are part of the Trust.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12th July 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2016 were accepted as a true record, with no technical corrections. There were no matters arising.

**4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

***Finance & Audit Committee (12.07.16)***

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July were accepted as a true record, with no matters arising.

***Remuneration & Personnel (12.07.16)***

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July were accepted as a true record, with no matters arising.

**5. CHAIR’S ACTIONS**

Mrs Jarvis confirmed that no Chair’s Actions had been agreed since the last meeting.

**6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Mrs Jarvis asked directors present to complete a Declaration of Interests Form for 2016/17 and sign Section I declarations to support the Lowestoft Free School bid.

**7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT : CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Peile referred trustees to his confidential report and appendices, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. See below.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 13th December 2016

Mrs Jarvis advised that the date of the February meeting, scheduled for 7th February 2017 is likely to be changed. It was agreed that she should canvass trustees for alternative dates and confirm new date asap.