Trust Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13th February 2025 – Teams

Present: Paul Howieson (PH), Les Lane (LL), Kat Hearn (KH), Martin Copsey (MC) (Chair), Rod Woodford (RW), Brendan Mullany (BM), Lucy Waterhouse (LW), Jo Levasier (JL), Claire Lawrenson (CL)

Apologies: Brendan McCarthy (BMc), Mark Gilbert (MG)

In Attendance: Sue Bennett (SEB) Minutes

		Action
1.	**Welcome and Apologies** Apologies were received from BMc and MG.	
2.	**Declarations of Interest for items on this agenda** There were no declarations of interest.	
3. 3a 3b 3c	**Draft Minutes and actions from the Trust Board Meeting on 12th December 2024** **The minutes of 12th December were agreed as a true and accurate record.** Actions arising from the minutes There were no matters arising. PH updated trustees an on three recent inspections: • SIAMS – Stoborough Primary School secured a Judgement 1. • Ofsted – An inspection at Lulworth & Winfrith Primary School took place two weeks ago and the outcome was 'good' in all judgement areas. The inspector was convinced that the school will be able to achieve a rapid improvement under CLP and the new leadership team. • Ofsted – An inspection at Oakdale Junior School took place on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and the outcome was also 'good' in all areas. The inspector noted the rapid improvement brought about by the headteacher who joined a year ago. Achievement Committee 29th January 2025 BM outlined the main points from the meeting: • A large part of the meeting was spent discussing pupil premium and the challenges schools are facing. Both the central team and schools are putting a significant effort into improving outcomes for pupil premium children. • At present we will not meet the target set by schools to be at national for pupil premium children at key stage 2. Resources Committee 3rd February 2025 LL outlined the main points from the meeting: • A new AI policy was introduced and this was discussed at length. CLP will be trialling different AI platforms over the coming months. • Major capital urgent works in a number of schools continues to be a concern.	

		Action
3d 3e 3f	<u>AGM – 27th January 2025</u> MC outlined the main points from the AGM • Members had some questions about the current reserves level and what the plans were to restore these. • Interested to hear about the SEN work taking place across the Trust. • Members continue to be thankful for the work and time trustees put into the running of the Trust. <u>Feedback from Pay Committee – 17th January 2025</u> Pay Committee have met to discuss and agree the following: • The implications of the government removing the performance related pay progression from teaching staff. This was discussed at the last trust board meeting and a summary was sent out prior to this meeting. The changes will need to be incorporated into the next updates of the Scheme of Delegation and the Pay Policy. PH added that HR had met today with the JNCC and the proposed updates to the pay policy will be submitted to this committee at the next meeting. <u>Feedback from Funding Working Group – 12th February 2025</u> KH gave a summary of the meeting: • A representative from another trust was invited to join the meeting to talk about their experience changing to a shared funding model which they introduced around 6-7 years ago. • The group considered the pros and cons. The representative advised that accountability at their trust isn't quite right at the moment and they are working on this. • The group realise that if CLP changes its funding model, it is unlikely it will be right the first time. • The representative shared their model with the group and at the next meeting we are going to look at putting a few basic models together. • The representative from the other trust advised that he didn't feel that different funding models was a barrier to new schools joining the Trust. PH advised that he had found the visit from the other Trust inspiring.	
4.	**Admissions Policy** (documents circulated with the agenda) Trustees were asked to approve the Admissions Policy for 2026-2027. PH advised trustees that the consultation process had highlighted one particular area of interest "giving equal weight to siblings, regardless of catchment status". Both the diocese and BCP have issued caution about adding this clause, but at this point we believe it would be better to go ahead. <u>Trustee questions / comments</u> I agree we should go ahead with the proposal on giving equal weight to siblings, but fear we will end up in the Baden Powell / Lilliput / Courthill area having siblings in the catchment area who cannot get into Baden Powell. This year all pupils in the BPSP catchment have got places along with a number of children out of catchment, however, we will monitor this carefully over the next few years.	

		Action
	LL proposed, JL seconded and all were in favour of approving the Admissions Policy 2026-2027.	
5.	**Strategy for Falling Roll** (documents circulated with the agenda) PH set out the key points to note: • Pupil numbers for September 2025 are broadly as we thought and we believe we will be adrift by around 38 children which equates to around a £300k deficit. • Lulworth and Winfrith have received 6 applications against a PAN of 15. There was nothing to indicate that this was going to happen. However, this number could change between now and September. • Oakdale had 60 applications against the pan of 128. We now need to consider whether the pan reduction to 96 is low enough or whether it should come down to 64. A trustee asked if there might be any impact on local reputation with the addition of a new headteacher and the recent "good" Ofsted inspection outcome. PH responded that this should have an impact but if you are in a catchment area with reducing children there isn't anything we can do. • St Luke's have 31 applications against a pan of 60. • The move towards a single local governing body at Lulworth & Winfrith and Wool is progressing well. [redacted] • [redacted]. • At a recent conference run by Salisbury Diocese, they were very clear that all their schools should be part of a multi academy trust, and we looked at how those schools who are not currently in a Trust can be persuaded to join one. A trustee if we could do more to promote our schools through things like video footage, and asked how we can promote what it means to be a CLP school to increase the brand and awareness? PH responded that he agreed with the principle of promotion and using bite size video footage, but wasn't sure promoting CLP as a means to fill our schools was helpful as parents have very definite views as to where they want their children to go. Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Joy Allen to Chair of Governors at Lulworth & Winfrith and Wool. **Appointment of Headteacher and Corfe Castle** Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Stoner as substantive headteacher at Corfe Castle from September 2025. This follows the resignation of Amy Howe.	
6.	**Strategy Day** All agreed that the recent strategy day with trustees, headteachers and senior leaders was a successful and worthwhile day, and is something that could be an annual event.	

		Action
	Trustees made the following comments: • I appreciated the chance to meet headteachers away from the school environment. • I thought the morning speaker was excellent but felt the session in the afternoon didn't flow as well. • I felt the role play sessions in the afternoon would have been better carried out at the beginning of the day. • It was a good reminder that we are here to serve our stakeholders. • We need to be clear to what extent this day helps to create our strategy, there needs to be a clear linkage with what was said on the day. • There were some interesting conversations about staff mobility and about what we are trying to achieve in terms of pupil outcomes. • I felt meeting in person allowed for more creativity and believe we should consider other meetings where we can meet in person. • I felt the speaker was excellent, and as a headteacher in a school outside of CLP it was interesting to meet with other headteachers; I thought it was a very positive day. • There is value in putting ourselves in other peoples' perspectives which needs caution. In terms of frequency. • Rather than setting a day annually, maybe just when needed. • I felt there was some lack of innovation at certain times and being together in a room more frequently would help this. PH advised that he was unconcerned that there wasn't a product produced from the day and that this is something for him to do. From the perspective of headteachers there were probably things that were discussed that they were unaware of as these were discussions that take place at trust board meetings. PH added that his main takeaway from the day included agility of workforce, flexibility of resources and being achieved in a spirit of generosity. The next step for PH is to produce a plan on no more than two sides of A4, to re-express our values and translate our values into some simple behaviours. MC advised that there have been some views expressed by trustees that we should look at the structure of our meetings and the mix of teams and face to face meetings. **Action: SB to circulate a document to trustees asking for preferred days/times of meetings and ratio of face to face and teams meetings.**	**SB**
7.		
8.	**Feedback from LGBs** (document circulated with the agenda) Trustees noted the feedback from a couple of LGBs suggesting a few tweaks to the headteachers status report, and noted some anxieties around the financial position in schools.	

		Action
	A trustee noted that Corfe Castle LGB had fed back some concerns about the state of the playground, and asked if there was any opportunity to use some kind of sponsorship arrangement to try and unlock some of the smaller funding projects. [redacted] <u>Chairs Forum 15th January 2025</u> MC advised that the main discussion was around LGB training and communication events. This discussion led to a decision to cancel the all governor event scheduled for March. This will give time to take all comments into account and come up with alternative events. There was a lot of positive feedback about the LGB structure framework. Trustees agreed that the feedback report was proving helpful in understanding what issues school are worrying about.	
9.	**Key messages for Staff and Governors** • Approved the Admissions Policy for 2026/2027. • Discussions around falling roll and the implications this will create over the next few years continue and trustees are monitoring this closely. • Trustees welcome the feedback from LGBs.	
10.	**Any Other Business** There was no other business	

Meeting closed at 8:40

Next meeting: Thursday 27th March 2025