

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
COMPANY NUMBER: 7359755

Subject	Meeting of the Board of Directors	Date	26 August 2021
Room	TSAT leadership conference	Time	2.15pm
Present	Stuart Gardner (SG), David Lycett (DL), Peter Martin (PM) (Chair), Derek Morrison (DM), Gerard Newman (GN), Ian Mason (IM),	Clerk	Kelly Denton
Apologies accepted	Linda Randall, Steve Geary, Michael Bailey	In attendance	Kelly Denton (KD), Lee Miller (LM), Kaye Bettey (KB),
Non-attendees			

Key Points Discussed and Action Items				
No.	Agenda Item	Action/Discussion	By whom	When
1.	Declaration of business interests	There were no declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda		
2.	Welcome and apologies for absence	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Michael Bailey, Steve Geary & Linda Randall, in addition to Matthew Fleet & Vickey Ferguson		
3.	Minutes and matters arising	The Board unanimously agreed the minutes from the previously meeting.		
4.	MAT Inspection	SG covered the key aspects of the MAT inspection framework and led a task with the board to establish how informed the Board are on these key areas and to identify if there is a need for adjustment or further information or differing data to be shared with the Board. SG covered the key areas which included; school improvement strategies and their effectiveness, quality assurances for the Board, the dissemination of the Trust strategy within the schools, levels of data and accuracy of data. The Board discussed in detail the level of information they receive in these areas as a board and throughout the governance		

		<p>structure. They discussed the Boards current level of knowledge in these areas and agreed the following actions to further this:</p> <p>To invite John Cavil to hold a session with the board to challenge their knowledge and understanding of their key responsibilities under the MAT inspection framework. Kelly Denton to arrange.</p> <p>For Board members to consider incorporating the implementation of the Trust vision and strategy at school level into future school visits.</p>	KD	
			BoD	
5.	Leadership conference	<p>This Board meeting was a held within the Leadership Conference residential in which Board members participated in session with Trust leadership.</p> <p>These session included; A session with the CEO on the Trust strategic approach to 'Total Education' Sessions with the Directors of Education (DoE) on the strategy for staff development in which Board members discussed the approach to staff objectives which would link to trust wide objectives and the support for staff through the changing processes. DoE session on Coaching models, approaches to improving maths in trust schools, building pupils digital learning and enhancing cultural education within the trust.</p> <p>The Board also held a session without the Executive which covered the outcomes of governance reviews which have occurred over the last year, the boards self-reviews and the outcomes of the board members capacity framework review. The Board discussed areas that may impact the Trust and Board over the coming years and developed some key themes for the Boards development plan.</p> <p>The action was agreed to pull together the Board development plan for the October board meeting.</p>	KD	Oct 21
6.	AOB	<p>Q: Following a discussion within the main leadership conference a Trustee asked what safeguarding risks there were to our pupils given the communication that the web filtering solution isn't ready for the one to one device role out (due to withdraw of contract)</p> <p>A: LM answered that there will be no risk of children accessing unfiltered webpages through the devices whilst using the device in the school as the existing secure web filtering will be in place. The students will not however be able to access the internet from their devices at home until a new solution is sourced.</p>		

		<p>The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Alex Maxted to the Fratton RGB and Ashley Hall to the Operations Committee</p> <p>It was noted that all Trustee had received the Dear Accounting Officer letter</p> <p>Complaints policy sign off: Q: A Trustee asked if the limit on complaints set at three months applied to whistle blowing. A: LM Explained that policy did not apply to whistle blowing which is covered in a separate policy. The Board unanimously agreed to ratify the Trust Complaints Policy</p> <p>LM presented the pay proposal, highlighting the key messages that there is a proposed pay freeze for teachers nationally but TSAT will look at a mid-range review increase for a few points. Q: How many teaching staff will this effect? A: LM confirmed he will come back to you exact number but suspected about 30% Q; Is that budgeted A: LM explained he budgeted 2 percent for all teachers so yes this is within the budget Q: Has there been a reaction from the unions A: LM stated that they appeared disappointed but no formal objection has been submitted The Board unanimously agreed the teacher pay proposal</p> <p>LM presented the support staff initial pay proposal of an increase of 1.5% but said this could increase. Q: Was this all support staff A: LM answered yes except Executive who are on a different contract and pay increases agreed separately at a later point. The Board unanimously agreed the 1.5% but noted this may change for which further agreement would be sort.</p> <p>LM updated the Board on the Maritime planning application and the significant challenge that the maritime planning committee received which has delayed the planning permission being granted due to the application incorporating other aspects including housing applications.</p> <p>LM explained the timeframe of the new application that is now being submitted and the implications this has on the maritime admission policy, process for admission, admission offers and school opening.</p>		
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7.	Items for the next agenda	Final version of the Board development plan		
8.	Date of next meeting	20 th October 2021		