

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST
COMPANY NUMBER: 7359755

Subject	Meeting of Board of Directors	Date	Wednesday 12 th February 2020
Room	Trust Board Room & Meon Hub	Time	5pm
Present	Stuart Gardner; Derek Morrison, Michael Bailey, Peter Martin (Chair); Linda Randall, Ian Mason, Steve Geary, Via Video call: Lee Trimby, Rachel Jordan-Evans ,	Clerk	Sarah Cole
Apologies accepted	Dave Lycett, Gerrard Newman	In attendance	Lee Miller(LM), Kelly Denton (KD), Natalie Sheppard (NS). Jody Murphy (JM), Gwynn Bassan (GB), Mandy Gage (MG)
Non-attendees			

No.	Agenda Item	Action/Discussion	By whom
1.	Business Interests	No additional business interests were given	
2.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies accepted for Dave Lycett and Gerrard Newman	Chair
3.	Minutes and Matters arising	Both sets of minutes were checked with no amendments needed and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. Minutes were signed by the chair. KD explained all minutes will eventually be published on Trust websites so each set will need to be redacted for sensitive information. It was agreed that any discussions around finance will be treated as commercially sensitive and will therefore be redacted.	Chair

4.	Digital Learning Strategy	<p>NS gave a presentation on ‘Technology has created a monumental shift on how we live’.</p> <p>Brief outline of presentation: The use of technology in society is evolving and growing, how does this shape our children’s education. Ed Tech is estimated to grow significantly. Some of the big players in this field are Google and Microsoft, who all want to bid for business of the schools. Department for Education have identified the need for Ed Tech in schools, so have invested in demonstrating schools. Each demonstrating school receives a grant of approx. £150k. 50 schools have been recognised as using Ed Kit really well. The use of technology in the classroom encourages independent learning and provides students with the IT skills that they will need in the world of employment. Current teaching in classrooms is quite passive IT creates a flexible learning environment, which would naturally lead to be better teaching and therefore outcomes.</p> <p>Evidence of the key benefits of Digital Learning: Consolidates knowledge and accelerates progress Children’s reading, maths and English have improved Enhances employment skills SEND children are better supported Allows for the more able children to be challenged Less paper to be used creating a greener Trust A reduction in teachers workload Children adopt a faster pace of learning Teachers are freed up to do more interventions in the classroom Parents are reconnecting with the schools Foster global connections which will enhance the reputation of the Trust</p> <p>Since adopting Digital Learning, Portsmouth College have seen an increase of 80% of pupils passing their exams retakes and the attainment gap has closed between boys and girls and also those of the disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Proposal: a) Years 1 to 6 shared device policy funded by a Trust lease b) Year 7 to 13 1-2-1 device policy funded by parental subscription (approx. £10 monthly)</p> <p>Q- Will there be another opportunity for schools to be part of the demonstrating schools model? A-Natalie has raised this question and is yet to get a definite answer.</p>	NS
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5.	Cultural Capital within our Trust	<p>MG gave a presentation on Cultural Capital within our Trust Brief outline of presentation: Students need to be able to access some of the cultural experiences via school that they may not otherwise be able to access from home. DoE’s are starting to track how Cultural Capital is being used in schools. Ofsted framework now allows schools the opportunity to explore cultural strategy. If as a Trust we truly believe in transforming the life chances of our students then we need to offer common cultural framework in schools. The Trust have gained a platform in the Medway. We are in discussions with the Opera house about becoming the first Artsmark Trust.</p> <p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- Consultation with Heads about all schools gaining Artsmark status. Costs approx. £500. MG is in discussions about getting this funded for Medway schools. b- Introduction of TSAT Cultural Passports to be used to benchmark what cultural experiences students should have within school. <p>The board unanimously agreed Mandy’s proposal.</p> <p>Q-What happens next?</p>	

		MG to raise at next month's Head's meeting. She will look at piloting this in a school that is currently not offering a lot culturally. To look at the Trust having A Development Officer.	
6.	Company Secretary Report	<p>LM, asked for any questions on the Regional Governing Body Membership.</p> <p>The board unanimously agreed to approve this and formally appoint Ben Taylor to the RGB</p> <p>KD, Despite appointing some really strong governors the Trust, we are still struggling to fill the communication and IT vacancies, the make up of RGBs will be reviewed at the next G&C Committee. MB said he will raise this at the next AAB and RGB meetings.</p> <p>LM, Due to Annette Beard leaving a board vacancy was created which the board agreed would be a Marketing and PR specialist. SG & PM met with Ian Mason and propose that the board appoint him as a Non-Executive Director and Trustee. Michael Bailey proposed this and Derek Morrison seconded the appointment. The board welcomed Ian to the Board of Directors.</p>	LM
7.	Admission Arrangement for 2021	<p>LM gave a summary of the changes that have been proposed. He asked if the board were happy to publish the admission numbers.</p> <p>The board unanimously agreed for this to happen.</p> <p>SG praised LM and MG for the work they have done on admissions.</p> <p>LM, highlighted there is a current consultation to move St Nicks PAN from 40 to 30, looking at local need which will impact on our admission. Plans are being discussed, funding has been agreed but this can't be realised until a final decision reached by St Nicks.</p>	LM
8.	CEO Verbal report	<p>SG gave an overview of his CEO's report. He highlighted some key information on Trust performance – trust score +0.32. RGS top in Medway and TPA 2nd in Portsmouth.</p> <p>The Trust have had 2 recent Ofsted inspections. Isambard achieved Good in all areas. All Faiths Good in all areas and Outstanding in personal development.</p> <p>The Board congratulated the Executive and the Schools for these results</p> <p>Potential Ofsted inspections in 2020-2021 GCA, MJS, NH, GA, RGS. PEN and TVA due 2021-2022. It will</p>	

		<p>be GA's first Ofsted within the Trust and RGS' first inspection in 10 years (previously rated Outstanding)</p> <p>The Trust may also be considered for a Trust review.</p> <p>Curriculum at secondary schools, it was agreed the Trust will be adopting the 3/2 KS3/4 model.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>KS2 data on track for great results in primary. MJS still need to get over the line.</p> <p>Staffing, Dan High has just been appointed as Director of Service delivery and performance on a temporary secondment basis, which may lead to a permanent position. James Fenlon has been promoted to Head of Facilities and Health & Safety and the Trust will look to back fill Head of Finance on an internal secondment.</p> <p>Head of Marketing post has been advertised externally.</p> <p>Anna Webb has recently been appointed as Head of both Penhale and Newbridge as Kate Keller retires in April. The Chair added that he was on the interview panel for Anna and was very impressed with her ability and confident for her in the new role.</p> <p>Trustees agreed with the new structures and appointments</p>	
9.	Board Capacity and Effectiveness Review	<p>KD thanked everyone for completing the self-review on the board's effectiveness.</p> <p>She explained she has pulled out some suggested action points for the Board to decide on:</p> <p>Point 3, Strategic Committee, LT and PM currently on committee, the board were asked if anyone else wanted to attend this, which the board declined, so to stay with the current model.</p> <p>Point 4. Impact on Stake Holders. Agreed that KD to review with feedback from AAB and RGB.</p> <p>Point 5, Risk Management. LM will review the reports sent to Governors to ensure it highlighted the key risks.</p> <p>Point 6, Lack of Educationalists on the Board. Board agreed additional training to arm the board which the correct educational answers would be sufficient</p> <p>Point 7, Data Comments. Agreed that board members will receive training on the data that the schools are producing and it will be delivered in a consistent manor</p> <p>Points 11, 13 and 14. Boards Understanding of Governors Accountability. Action training with either</p>	

		LM or Browne Jacobson. Points 15 and 16. Board needs time for Self Review. KD is due to attend a Governance Leadership course, agreed that she will then look at the strategies and peer review.	
10.	Any other business and correspondence to the chair	TSAT employees left the room and the chair shared [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] TSAT employee's returned to the room. The board thanked SG for his commitment to the Trust.	
11.	Items for Next Agenda		
12.	Date of Next Meeting	22/04/2020	