



**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
DISCOVERY SCHOOLS ACADEMIES TRUST LTD ("COMPANY")**

**Held virtually
on 3 February 2021
at 5pm**

Chair:

Richard Bettsworth

Members present:

Richard Bettsworth
Carolyn Lewis
Rob Woolston
Celia Varley

Trustees present:

Shane Bray
David Williams
Ed Green
Paul Stone (Trustee and Trustee Leader)
Mihir Trivedi
Jonathan Parsons

In attendance as presenters:

Emma Clarke - Finance Director
David Briggs – Director of Primary Education
Headteachers: Catriona Mugglestone, Kathie Wade, Matt Peet, Jo Andrews, Gilly Patterson

Clerk:

Helen Stockill- Head of Governance

Item
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Members and Trustees made their introductions.</p> <p>Apologies of absence were received from Gary Sims – Trustee.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the previous AGM & matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 28 January 2020 were approved as an accurate record.</p>

3. Progress made by the Trust 2019/20

Paul Stone, Trust Leader, provided a summary of achievement through the year highlighting that all schools were judged as good or better. Members commended this significant achievement and congratulated the Executive Team and Board.

David Briggs, Director of Primary Education, shared the development of strategies that had impacted on the effectiveness of schools including a new curriculum strategy. Focus has been given to developing the school improvement and teaching and learning strategies in response to COVID and they would continue to evolve with blended and remote learning. Despite COVID restrictions, schools were continuing to track and benchmark data, using it to target improvement. Schools had responded well to COVID, attendance had been strong and generally ahead of National and Leicestershire.

Paul Stone summarised the Trust successes noting the positive results of the School Management Resource Audit, for which he congratulated the Finance Team. During the year the Trust has received a capacity grant to support the development of a SEND cluster. Paul was disappointed with the progress of the cluster which was down to external factors outside the control of the project.

Working with stakeholders a new vision and values had been created to reflect the evolving trust. It was to be proposed to members that the organisation name be changed to Discovery Trust.

Other successes included the development of a HR department, equality strategy and members of the finance team qualifying as SMRA advisory for EFSA.

The Trust had done a significant amount of work supporting and contributing to the education sector in alignment with its values. National development initiatives included Edtech, PE Demonstrator status, MAT monitoring and resources such as the EPIC bounce back programme being shared across the system.

The Chair acknowledge the hard work of heads and staff for getting through a difficult period, expressing thanks on behalf of the board.

4. Christian ethos and values

Gilly Patterson, Headteacher at Kibworth CofE, provided a presentation on how the school vision, which is rooted in scripture, and christian values permeate through the school and the wider community. Sharing how 'Let your light shine' was embedded in policy, practice and through the curriculum. Community and inclusiveness were at the heart of the ethos of the school and Gilly shared examples of how this worked in practice, sharing the work that was taking place during wellbeing week.

5. Looking ahead – a series of short inputs

Equalities - Kathie Wade

Kathie shared an update on the work taking place around the equality agenda, highlighting why it was important and some of the early challenges. Trust wide equality objectives had been developed to gather equality data which would direct future work in addition objectives relating to inclusive recruitment

practices and the development of a common language around equalities to grow staff confidence to speak about issues. An Equality Consultative Group has been recruited to further the objectives of the strategy and consider the equality implications of new projects and policies.

Curriculum for a digital age - Matt Peet

Matt provided an overview of bended learning and how it would influence the future direction of education. Covid-19 had accelerated schools response to connectivity and technology school and needed to capitalise on how technology could enhance pedagogy. Matt shared a vision for success which set out considerations for schools including engagement, accessibility, application and experiences.

Wellbeing – Catriona Mugglestone

Catriona highlighted the impact of COVID on the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and families and what this might mean for school leaders. Strong pastoral support would be vital to support pupils to address the changing behaviours and anxiety that have resulted from lockdown. Staff wellbeing must be prioritised as the demands of responding, personally and professionally, to CVOID takes effect. Trust-wide collaboration and initiatives meant the trust was in a good position to rise to the challenges that would be presented.

The Chair expressed his thanks to all the presenter for their inspiring and thought-provoking presentations and insights that had the interests of the children at their heart.

6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts 2019-20

The Members received the 2019-20 Annual Account. Emma Clarke, Finance Director provided a summary of the headlines for the 2019-20 financial year. She drew Members' attention to the Auditor's report, which confirmed the unqualified opinion with no substantive issues.

The Trust reserves position had increased on the previous year due to capital funds not spent and projects/recruitment delays as a result of COVID. Unrestricted reserves were reported as over the threshold set in the reserve policy however were planned to support additional COVID costs and teacher & support staff pay increases.

Total trust funds were reported as £20.4m

The Members welcomed the Report.

7. Appointment of Auditors

Emma Clarke reported that the Trust was entering the fourth year of the maximum five year external audit contract with MHA Macintyre Hudson. Following a best value review, Emma recommended continuing the contract with MHA Macintyre Hudson for 2020/21 which Members unanimously **AGREED**.

8. Q&A

None

9. Close

The Chair thanked all in attendance, and formally thanked the staff across the Trust for the successes throughout the challenging year, and for the positive impact this has on all the pupils.



26 January 2022

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Chair

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Date

The AGM was attended by:

Dawn White
Louise Barber
Anna Mousley
Karen Ludden
Sujat Lavignia
Ruth Malkin
Sam Williams
Marceline Lindsay
Lesley Butcher
Raj Tugnet
James Brown
Simon Whitaker
Chris Bruce

School Improvement Partner
Director of Operations
Trust Clerk
Executive Assistant
Advisory Board Chair
School Improvement Chair
Advisory Board Chair
Advisory Board Member
Advisory Board Chair
Co-opted member
Deputy Trust Leader
Governor – KLMS Federation
Executive Head KLMS Federation