



**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
DISCOVERY SCHOOLS ACADEMIES TRUST LTD ("COMPANY")  
Held at Fossebrook Primary School  
on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
at 5.15pm**

**Chair:**

Richard Bettsworth

**Members present:**

Richard Bettsworth  
Carolyn Lewis

**Trustees present:**

Richard Bettsworth (Trustee & Member)  
Paul Stone (Trustee and Trust Leader)  
Shane Bray  
Gary Sims  
Maggie Spence  
Raj Tugnet  
Chris Bristow  
Ruth Malkin  
Mihir Trivedi

**Clerk:**

Marie Bannatyne - Head of Governance

Item
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies.</b></p> <p>Richard Bettsworth opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Members and Trustees made their introductions.</p> <p>There were apologies received from Rob Woolston.</p> <p>Trustees apologies were received from Lucy Welsford</p>
<p><b>2. Election of AGM chair</b></p> <p>Richard Bettsworth was <b>ELECTED</b> as chair for the meeting.</p>

### 3. Minutes of the previous AGM & matters arising

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 26 January 2022 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

### 4. Progress made by the Trust 2021/22

Paul Stone, Trust leader presented a summary of progress Trust wide, highlighting:

**National Performance** – Our attendance , Year 2 attainment and tables and phonics were higher than average. GCSE performance in our SEND schools remain significantly higher than comparisons. Louise Barber was awarded TES School Business Leader of the year and Emma Clarke was awarded the National schools Resource Management award of the year.

**SEND Integration** – The viability considering LA remodelling was hugely successful and Millgate is likely to maintain a traded Residential provision. Our SEND schools continue to support all learners across the trust. The Trust Board strengthened its expertise and our SEND schools have joined the Microsoft tenancy and has established shared communication.

**Support for Schools** – 5 of our Primary schools have been awarded Microsoft Showcase Status and Discovery has been awarded Microsoft System Status which makes us 1 in 7 organisations worldwide to have this. 5 of our schools have achieved SWGL 360 E-safety award and all schools will have this by Easter. Discovery supported over 217 schools through the DfE Ed Tech Programme.

**Trust as an Anchor Institution (CST)** – Keyham Lodge continues to be a behaviour Hub that supports 9 focus schools per year and provided support to Clayfield Secure Children’s Home to secure good rating. 2 of our executive team provided mentoring support to 4 MAT leaders and further programmes.

**Serving our community** – We provided over 1,000 holiday club places (40%) of which were to children not in our schools, 2 new pre-schools were opened due to local demand. The trust Pupil Parliament and Asha ambassadors continued to develop supporting the “pupil voice” and the Equality Consultation Group continued and evolves.

**Support for Colleagues** – We launched a revised culture book which reflects our combined ethos and focus. Teacher Development time was launched and maintained in all schools and our core trust curriculum was established. A new appraisal model was introduced that supports professional learning.

The Chair congratulated the Trust on behalf of Members for an impressive performance this year and thanked all the team at Discovery Trust for their hard work.

### 5. Future Plans & Challenges

Chris discussed the future for growth into Alternative Provision for the Trust, currently we aim to apply for 2 Alternative Provisions free school as part of the DfE Wave 2.

Current challenge is the high demand for SEND pupils, the capacity issues, and the pressure on the Local Authorities high needs block funding and how we can support process around access and efficient use to ensure value for money.

Question received from Carolyn – where the growth areas for these provisions are and discussed the demand for places within and outside of Leicester and Leicestershire. Conversation took place regarding this which led into further discussions around what we could do as a Trust to support. Carolyn, Chris Bristow, and Chris Bruce agreed that they would meet outside of this meeting to discuss this.

Paul discussed the schools that we are working with, who will hopefully join Discovery Trust.

Current challenges are the decreasing pupil numbers, which is happening nationally, not just locally and we are working on how this is sustainable.

Paul also discussed the issues around recruitment and staff retention since COVID.

#### **6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts 2021/22**

The Members received the 2021/22 Annual Account. Emma Clarke, Finance Director provided an overview of the accounts process and confirmed they had been published on the trust website as required.

Emma drew Members' attention to the Auditor's report, which confirmed the unqualified opinion with no substantive issues.

Emma explained the revenue breakdown and the reserves figures as the policy used to be 4%.

Question received regarding the pension deficit. Emma explained that this is not a liability we will have to meet.

Chair thanked Emma and team for such a good audit and robust accounting processes.

#### **7. Appointment of Auditors**

Members unanimously **AGREED** the continuation of appointment of Mazars as the Trust external auditor

#### **8. Q&A**

Carolyn asked if the board would consider a majority MAT. The board answered that this would be considered.

#### **9. Close**

The Chair thanked all in attendance and for the presentations, and formally thanked the staff and all involved across the Trust for their commitment and successes throughout this year, and for the positive impact our curriculum work has had on our pupils.

Chair

Date

The AGM was attended by:

Paul Stone

Chris Bruce

Emma Clarke

Louise Barber

Marie Bannatyne

Sarah Sadler