



**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
DISCOVERY SCHOOLS ACADEMIES TRUST LTD ("COMPANY")
Held at Kibworth Primary School
on Wednesday 24th January 2024
at 5.00pm**

Chair:

Richard Bettsworth

Members present:

Richard Bettsworth
Carolyn Lewis (Teams)
Robert Woolston

Trustees present:

Richard Bettsworth (Trustee & Member)
Lucy Welsford
Maggie Spence
Ruth Malkin
Mihir Trivedi
Shane Bray
Gary Sims
Raj Tugnet (Teams)

Clerk:

Marie Bannatyne - Head of Governance

Item
<p>1. Welcome and apologies.</p> <p>Richard Bettsworth opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Members and Trustees made their introductions.</p> <p>Members apologies were received from David Williams.</p> <p>Trustees' apologies were received from Chris Bristow and Stephen Dixon-Mould.</p>
<p>2. Election of AGM chair</p> <p>Richard Bettsworth was ELECTED as chair for the meeting.</p>

3. Minutes of the previous AGM & matters arising

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25 January 2023 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record.

4. Progress made by the Trust 2022/23

Chris Bruce, Deputy Trust leader presented a summary of progress Trust wide, highlighting:

- **National Performance** – Our attendance remained higher than national. RWM combined at KS2 was above National. RWM combined for disadvantaged children was significantly higher than National. Tables and Phonics checks were higher than National Averages. Year 2 attainment was higher than National Averages. GCSE performance of SEND children at Keyham and Millgate remain significantly higher than national comparisons with SEND schools and favourable with mainstream performance. Nathan Odom was a finalist in the National Schools Award for School Estates Management of the Year.
- **Whole Trust SEND Provision Development** - Keyham Lodge continue as a lead school and deliver through DfE's National Behaviour Hub (all schools receiving support improve overall judgement at next OFSTED). Vicky Edwards and Sara Marsh have become Executive Headteachers supporting wider SEND and school improvement initiatives. Specialist support from special schools has been established at Captains and Parkland both with high SEMH needs. Revised Trust Safeguarding Strategy, Procedures and audits across the Trust. Trust has aligned CPOMS categories and reports to ensure consistency, self-evaluation and targeting of need. Discovery SALT service has now been integrated within Keyham Lodge staffing structure providing a more effective and widespread knowledge base. Dawn White has completed Special Inspection Training and completed peer reviews at Keyham Lodge and Millgate.
- **Support for Schools Trust as Anchor Institution** - 11 Primary Schools have been awarded Microsoft Showcase Status, there are only 79 nationally. Discovery Schools Trust has been re-awarded Microsoft System Status, 1 of 7 organisations worldwide. All 13 Primary Schools achieved SWGL 360 Safe E-safety award. Both Special Schools will gain the award by Easter. Discovery supported 3 MATs through the Regional School Director Support programme. We also supported an SEMH SAT in Hertfordshire. Keyham Lodge continued the support for Clayfield Secure Children's Home. Keyham and Millgate hosted at Indie Schools study Tour (AP schools) from Australia. Discovery presented at BETT and Optimus conferences. Trust SCITT was re-inspected and gained a consecutive Outstanding judgement.
- **Serving our Community** - The Trust provided over 2245 holiday club places during school holidays for both HAF and paid provisions. The Trust leads on Out of School Facilities funding (£20,000) 3-year project working with 3 schools leading Activity Clubs. Asha Ambassadors continued to develop, supporting pupil voice and live partnerships with children in New Delhi. The Equality Consultation Group continued and evolves. Children attended a Student Leadership Conference at NTU focused on sustainability action: leading the planting of orchards, 3 micro forests, Vegetable Growing Areas, and Recycling Schemes.

Discussion took place regarding plans for pre-schools opening and expanding after a question was received by Robert Woolston in regard to the future development of pre-schools in regard to maximising income and spaces within the school.

- **Support for Colleagues** – Pedtech continued to develop workload reduction strategies and platforms such as Progress Teaching to support and celebrate colleague effectiveness. Teacher Development time continued. An aligned Trust curriculum continued to evolve the alignment of all subjects to reduce teacher

workload whilst retaining autonomy for personalisation. Trust launched a new HR platform and employee discount system.

Gary Sims – Congratulated all at Discovery for a great year and results.

5. Future Plans & Challenges

Chris Bruce presented a summary of the Future Plans and Challenges and discussed:

- Growth opportunities for the Trust for current projects and future projects and highlighted that within some of the current projects there are opportunities for our capacity to grow due to the teams the potential schools have.
Discussion took place in regard to managing growth within the Trust.
- Actions of what has been taken to prepare us for the growth which included, an External Governance review, Leadership Review, SCITT expansion and retention.
- Our strengths for future plans include changes to Leadership within the Trust, Incorporating the two Heads of our current projects into Strategy and Leadership Meetings and seconded staff to support our other current project.

Carolyn Lewis thanked everyone at Discovery for their effort and said that there has been a great amount of work covering the breadth and depth of educational landscape.

Carolyn Lewis added that it would be beneficial to include a Member in a Leadership Review should this happen again.

6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts 2022/23

The Members received the 2022/23 Annual Account. Steve Orton, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, provided an overview of the accounts process and confirmed they had been published on the trust website as required.

Steve drew Members' attention to the Auditor's report, which highlighted 2 medium and 3 low controls, which have been rectified.

Chair congratulated Steve and the Team for a great audit and robust accounting.

A discussion took place regarding the reduction in pupil numbers in our primary schools and how the finances are being managed for this after a question was received by Robert Woolston.

7. Appointment of Auditors

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

8. Q&A

All questions were received and have been noted during the presentations.

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.

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Chair

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Date

