

COTHAM SCHOOL

Meeting of the Academy Governing Body to reflect

Wednesday 28 September

MINUTES OF MEETING

Governors Present:		
Dora Alderson, CG	David Brockington, Coop	Sandra Fryer, CG
John Bass, PG	Jo Butler, Headteacher	Claire Grocott, PG
Jim Bowyer, PG (Chair)	Andrew Ellis, SG	Jeremy Krause, LA
Paula Bradshaw, PG	Jo Feather CG	
In Attendance (non-voting) Leanne Sowersby, Clerk	Apologies	Governors in Post: 15/19 Quorum = 5 (1/3 rounded up)

Minutes of Meeting

JB explained the meeting is an informal meeting to identify questions and actions relating to those questions.

Questions

Where does the number of 11 Trustees come from and is that a set number?

Where does the number of 5 originating Members come from and do we have to have it?

Are we clear on how decisions are being made & what is the role of the advice from the steering group?

Communications – is there a better way of communicating than the parents' facebook page?

How do we endorse decisions? How will we decide how to recruit trustees?

How did the appointment of Christine Bayliss come about?

Need some clarity of the vision statement – where has this gone?

Who is agreeing vision and objectives and when?

If the founder Members will select Trustees on a skills basis, is there a chance that Cotham's nominations may not meet the criteria? Might all Trustees then all be supplied from Prima of Best Practice Network?

Might the 50/50 split not work in the best favour for Cotham? Could the term, 'skills' include knowledge of Cotham?

Query about Members, 'owning' the MAT – is it not the entity that owns it?

Query of costs of having 11 Trustees and 5 Members? How do the finances balance?

Need clarity about how the MAT finances will work.

Is the CEO a full time permanent position, separate from Heads of the schools? (it may become a separate post as more schools join the MAT)

How will the current students of Cotham benefit from this?

What is the risk of not doing this?

What controls will be in place to make sure we will retain our ethos and values in the future?

How will we make the strong case that formal and challenging relationships are beneficial to the students of Cotham School as well as other schools that might join?

Do the Model 1 Articles allow a Local Authority Governor?

Why do we need to move from the Cooperative Articles?

What would we ask of a school who are a cooperative if they were to join / can a cooperative school join?

Why do the Members, not the Trustees decide what powers will be delegated to the LGB?

Can we have some kind of, 'in good faith' agreement from Members to retain Cotham's ethos?

How will this be set up to guarantee the benefits for students?

Does it say anywhere that it is for the specific purpose of non-selective education to avoid being made into a grammar school?

Can Members decide to appoint more Members?

What is to prevent no Cotham people being Members in the future? How can we reassure parents we will not completely lose control?

Why must Members be individuals, not entities?

Is the way of replacing Members set out?

Could there be a scenario in which none of the Cotham Governors or representatives are Members?

How are Members held to account?

Is there guidance on how long Members and Trustees should serve?

Can Christine express experiences of success in this area?

Actions

Need to be clear and find the key information and make it easily accessible.

JBu to share the Vision Statement with Governors and add to consultation section of the website.

Need a proposal for the overall strategy.

Need a protocol for the appointment of Trustees.

Prima to obtain examples of policies / role descriptions etc.

Need a proposal about what needs to happen – areas that need to be covered and a timetable.

Scheme of appointments for Members and Trustees – SF to draft a beginning.

SF volunteered to start a draft action plan to be shared with Prima.

Should try to address why we decided to become a MAT in the consultation information.