

National Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT) Meeting

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 14 May 2019

REVIEWED
6.45 PM - The Whiting Room

Membership			'A' denotes absence
Mrs L Allen	LA	Parent Governor	Apologies
Mrs C Ball	CB	Foundation Governor	
Mrs K Cowley (Vice-Chair)	KC	Foundation Governor	
Mr C Dean	CD	Community Governor	Apologies
Vacancy		Appointed Parent Governor	
Mrs J Eastwood	JE	Foundation Governor	
Mrs A Harmston-Hall	AHH	Parent Governor	Apologies
Mrs E Hopkin	EHO	Staff Governor: Teaching	Apologies
Mrs H James	HJ	Foundation Governor	
Mrs G Johnson	GJ	DALP Governor	
Mr S Jones	SJO	Staff: Senior Executive Leader	
Mr A McKibbin	AM	Foundation Governor	
Mr B Marshall	BM	Foundation Governor	
Mrs K Mitford (Chair)	KM	Foundation Governor	
Mr J Oldfield	JO	Foundation Governor	
Rev J Stephens	JS	Foundation Governor (ex-officio)	Apologies
Mr M Paine	MP	Foundation Governor	
Mr S Yardley	SY	Foundation Governor	
<i>In attendance</i>			
Ms J Heath	JHE	Interim Principal	
Mrs A Elway	AE	Company Secretary	
Mr S Bray	SBy	Clerk	

NCE/39/1819	<p>Apologies & Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the following apologies for absence had been received: -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mrs L Allen: Family commitment Mrs C Dean: Family commitment Mrs A Harmston-Hall: Illness Mrs E Hopkin: Family commitment Rev Jo Stephens: Work sabbatical</p> <p>Governors were asked to consider and agree the apologies submitted. The apologies were approved.</p> <p>Apologies were also submitted from Mrs S Robbins (Associate Governor).</p>	
NCE/40/1819	<p>Declarations of interest and any changes since last declaration made</p> <p>Mrs Elway and Mr Bray declared and interest in the agenda item 43 “Future Role of Company Secretary” and indicated that they would leave the meeting for discussion of that matter.</p> <p>There were no further declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for any items of business on the agenda and there had been no new declarations of interests since declarations had last been made.</p>	
NCE/41/1819	<p>Future NCEAT Governance</p> <p>Further to previous discussion of this matter, Mrs Mitford reported back to trustees on the outcome of a recent meeting held with Diocesan representatives.</p> <p>She reported that Diocesan support in principle had been secured for a change to governance structures, under which the role of trustee and governor would be separated. Under the proposal, there would in future be 7 NCEA trustees and 10 local governors. Only the Chair of the future Local Academy Committee (see agenda item 42 below) would serve both as a trustee and a local governor. The proposal was consistent with proposed changes to the Diverse Academies Governance Strategy.</p> <p>Mrs Mitford further explained the anticipated roles and expectations of trustees and Local Academy Committee governors for the future. The aim was for the new arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2019, subject to formal agreement being secured. Diocesan lawyers were reviewing proposed revised draft Articles of Association, which would need to be approved by Members in due course prior to implementation of new arrangements.</p> <p>Mrs Mitford asked trustees to consider whether they would wish to serve as a trustee or a governor in future and to email her expressing their preference by 3 June 2019. Trustees were urged to consider and reflect on their own skill sets when considering this matter.</p> <p>Trustees asked what overlap there would be between the Local Academy Committee and trustees, in order to ensure continued co-ordination and good communication. In response, it was stressed that the Chair of the Local Academy Committee would also serve as a trustee, to act</p>	All trustees – June 2019

	<p>as a link between the two bodies, and that reports would also be included on the proposed Diverse Academies Governance and Partnership Committee.</p> <p>Mr Jones drew trustees' attention to diagrams included with reports for agenda item 42, which set out the roles and functions of trustees and Local Academy Committee governors going forward. It was confirmed that venues and times for future Diverse Academies committee meetings had yet to be confirmed but would be set with regard to the availability of the membership of each wherever possible.</p> <p>Trustees noted progress with discussions regarding future NCEAT governance and agreed to await further reports on the matter.</p>	
NCE/42/1819	<p>Diverse Academies Governance Strategy</p> <p>Mr Jones introduced and summarised the Strategic Approach document, copies of which had been previously circulated, including details of the future Trust and Academy interface. He invited further questions from trustees by email if not forthcoming at the meeting.</p> <p>Mrs Elway introduced and summarised the Governance Strategy and provided further detail on delivery of the new arrangements, also as set out in documents previously circulated. These had included the new Scheme of Delegation for NCEAT and Diverse Academies Trust, which was explained in further detail. She invited further questions from trustees by email if not forthcoming at the meeting.</p> <p>Trustees noted the potential for future training events to be held on separate dates, rather than on the same day as Local Academy Committee meetings. Trustees also suggested that attendance at second tier Diverse Academy committee meetings would need to be monitored and it was confirmed that this is already in place.</p> <p>Trustees asked for more time to consider the changes and their implications. The matter to be brought back to the next NCEAT meeting on 18 June for further discussion and review.</p> <p>Mrs Elway and Mr Bray left the meeting at 6.50 pm. Mrs Mitford took over the taking of minutes for the remainder of the meeting.</p>	Clerk – June 2019
NCE/43/1819	<p>Future Role of Company Secretary</p> <p>Consideration was given to the Chief Operating Officer's report on the proposed future Company Secretary role, copies of which had been previously circulated. Mr Jones and Mrs Mitford further explained the background to the report and invited governor questions on the report and the proposals included in it.</p> <p>Trustees raised a number of questions, expressing concern at the proposals and questioning the need for the proposed changes to be made. Following further discussion it became clear that trustees felt unable to support the proposed separation of the roles of Head of Governance and Company Secretary.</p> <p>Mrs Mitford agreed to refer the matter back to the Chief Operating Officer for further discussion within the Partnership.</p> <p>Mr Paine left the meeting at 6.55 pm during consideration of this item.</p>	KM – May 2019

NCE/44/1819	Date and time of future meetings Tuesday 18 June 2019: Whiting Room: 6.00pm	
NCE/45/1819	Determination of confidentiality and Equalities Act and Nolan Principle consideration Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential and whether during the discussions any equal opportunities had arisen. It was resolved that there were any items discussed relating to individual employment matters were confidential, as were specific details of discussion with Diocesan representatives. No further items discussed were deemed to be confidential and there had been no Equalities Act implications to consider. The Nolan Principles had been considered throughout all discussions.	

SignedPrint.....Date:/...../2019