

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

## **Our Vision**

Achieving More Together

## **Our Mission**

Working together passionately to achieve the best outcomes for our SEND children and young people

# Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - held virtually via MS Teams

## **MINUTES**

AGM 21/22	Item
	Present:
	Executive Team
	Local Governors
	Trustees
	Members
	School staff
	Headteachers
	School Improvement Partner
	Apologies:
	Juliet Holder (clinical psychologist)
	Melanie Vongswang (Trustee)
	Micheal Adlam Trustee
	Donald Cuthbert (Trustee)
	Sharon Lynas (Trustee)
	New Siblands Local Governors
	Culverhill Local Governors
	In Attendance:
	Frances McMillan (Clerk)
1.0	PROCEDURAL POINTS
1.1	Welcome:
	DT, the Chair of Trustees, welcomed all to the Trust's 4th AGM, noting the unusual circumstances
	of a virtual meeting and asked all to mute when not speaking. The Clerk holds a record of all
	attendees.
1.2	Apologies:
	The Clerk noted the apologies listed and from Governors of both schools.
1.3	Declarations of Interests:
	DT declared his standing interest. No other interests were declared.
1.4	Proxy Voting:



Member PB has asked that his vote resides with the Chair of Members.

### 1.5 Validity of Virtual meeting:

The Clerk clarified that through an extension to the timescale allowed by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, holding the AGM virtually is approved and all decisions made at this forum are valid.

#### 2.0 MINUTES

# 2.1 To consider and approve the Minutes of the AGM from 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021:

No comments were received, and the Minutes approved as a true record of the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk** to retain approved Minutes for signing

#### 3.0 MEMBER BUSINESS:

#### 3.1 Retirement of Trustees:

The Clerk confirmed the retirement of Denis de Souza on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

#### 3.2 Election of New Chair of Members:

David Hussey (DH) has been proposed and elected by the Members to act as their Chair for the coming year. Alan Kellas, the outgoing chair, has been elected as Vice Chair for the coming year.

#### 3.3 Members Statement to AGM:

DH expressed his pleasure to act as Chair of Members and noted for the AGM that at the earlier Members meeting, the Members received and considered the annual reports from the CEO and CoT. The Members believe that the Trust is in a strong position to continue our exemplary development of staff and leaders and to grow as a Trust.

ACTION: None.

#### 4.0 ACCOUNTING MATTERS:

# 4.1 To receive Enable Trust Accounts, Trustees Report and Management letter for period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

DH noted that the accounts detail a strong financial base for the Trust and commended the work of the Trust's administration teams, as the Auditors had also noted, in preparing for the audit and their ongoing work to ensure effective financial controls.

#### 4.2 To confirm that Bishop Fleming Ltd remains as external auditor to Enable Trust.

The Clerk with the DFO confirmed that our external auditors remain Bishop Fleming LLP.

#### 4.3 To confirm that One West remain the Internal Auditor to Enable Trust

The Clerk with the DFO confirmed that our internal auditors remain One West.

**ACTION:** None

#### 5.0 STRATEGIC MATTERS:

### 5.1 CEO's report to AGM:

The CEO thanked all present, representing our Trust community, for their dedication over the past year and particularly to our Head Techers for their unceasing work to maintain a safe place for our children through a year of great turmoil.

The CEO thanked the DFO for her financial clarity and oversight and the Board and Chair, DT, for the exceptional support and challenge they provide to the Executive.

# 5.1.1 Our Strengths:

The CEO explaining that Enable Trust plays a pivotal role within the South West's SEN community and supports a strong SEN agenda locally and wider on the national level through NASEN and liaison with government. We are represented on the MAT Advisory Board and national forum for



Neuroscience; these high levels of connectivity ensure we are well placed to influence when the Green Paper on SEN review is published this summer.

The development of our new school, Two Bridges, is exciting but challenging as although planning permission has been granted, there are issues around leases which is delaying ground break and may impact the planned opening date.

Our ECHP team is working exceptionally well to ensure the administration of ECHPs is of a high level and reducing teacher workload in this area. The work of our Clinical Psychologist, Dr Juliet Holder, is having a positive impact and highlights the increasing need in this area.

Both schools have a strong Curriculum offer and coherent Assessment system with a cross - Trust group further developing our understanding and use of Evidence for Learning and Insight systems.

We are developing 'OPTICAL', Observing Practice to Inform Classroom Teaching and Learning into an external as well as internal Teaching and Learning resource. The Trust will be working with Dr Sara Spear, one of our Members, on a multi-family research project with further projects, including one on outdoor learning, in the pipeline.

# The Risks:

5.1.2

5.2

We have mitigated the risk of our Head Teachers leaving by a robust recruitment process that has seen Mr Chris Walker appointed this week as HT designate at Culverhill. The new Head for New Siblands will be announced as soon as possible. The CEO will be supporting the new Heads but it will take time for them to reach optimum performance levels.

We must ensure our schools are Ofsted ready as inspection of either or both could take place at any time.

The outcome of the LA funding review and a new top up banding system and funding is a major risk to all special schools.

The tilt on the national landscape towards all schools being part of an academy structure and the White Paper which is expected to lay out structural changes to the higher governance at Regional School Commissioner levels are changes and unknowns that have inherent risks.

The impact of the pandemic on our schools and the challenges to staff and pupil wellbeing and access to education is by no means over.

The CEO finished by emphasising that despite the risks, as a Trust we have the strength to weather the changing landscape and reiterated his thanks to all.

#### **Chair of Trustees report to AGM:**

The CoT began by thanking all the Trust community for their input to ensuring that our schools and the Trust are in such a strong position; the resilience and stoic response to all the challenges we have faced has been humbling and at the heart are our children who continue to inspire us. The CoT noted the contribution of our HTs who lead our schools with professionalism and to our School Improvement Advisor, Neill Galloway, who has contributed to developing our school improvement; the new HUB administration has been a strong addition to our capacity.

He referenced the challenges, as outlined by the CEO, but on behalf of the whole community offered thanks to the CEO for his forward-thinking approach and tireless work to ensure that ET is part of these local and national discussions

The CoT and the Board is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges this next year will bring.

# 6.0 Any Motions the Members wish to consider:

None.

# 7.0 Any Business the Trustees wish the Members to Consider: None.

8.0	Confirmation of upcoming meetings:
	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting: <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – TBC</b>
	The Chair of Members closed the meeting at: 10.55am

Signed by Chair of Members as a true record:

Signed by Chair of Trustees as true a record:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_