



**Part 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the  
FULL GOVERNING BODY  
of Lower Peover C of E Primary School**

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 16th February, 2023 at 4.30pm	
<b>Venue:</b>	School	
<b>Present:</b>	Louise Lawton (LL) Chair Kristen O'Shea (KO'S) Vice Chair Debbie Rutter (DR) Alun McIntyre (IM) David Bradley (DB) Sharon Dean (SD) Jason Haslam (JH) Graham Norbury (GN) Tim Knowles (TK) Hannah Burgoryne (HB)	Foundation Governor Parent Governor LEA Governor Co-opted Trustee Staff Governor Head Teacher Deputy Head Teacher Foundation Governor Foundation Governor Parent Governor
<b>Apologies:</b>	Father Murray Aldridge-Collins and Peter Longinotti	
<b>Absent:</b>	None	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	John Addison (JA) Neil Dixon (ND)	Clerk to the Governing Body Chief Executive of CDAT

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Colossians 3:23**

**The meeting met its quorum.**

**Decisions, actions and areas of challenge during discussions indicated in bold text.**

<b>Agenda item 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	The meeting opened with a prayer. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Father Murray Aldridge-Collins and Peter Longinotti .  Governors welcomed Neil Dixon, Chief Executive of CDAT.  The purpose of the meeting was to receive a presentation from CDAT on the operation of a Multi-Academy Trust and the implications of the recent changes to the Government White Paper.
<b>Resolved:</b>	<b>That the apologies be accepted.</b>

Agenda item 2	CDAT
<p><b>Discussion:</b></p>	<p>ND thanked Governors for inviting him to the school today to give an overview of how CDAT operates as a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).</p> <p>ND gave details of his background as a Headteacher in Knowsley and as an HMI for Ofsted in the primary sector.</p> <p>CDAT was established in 2013 and currently had 11 primary schools in the Diocese of Chester with 2 further schools joining in April. This meant that the Trust was growing with a further number of schools expressing interest.</p> <p><b>Ethos</b></p> <p>ND recognised that joining a Trust was a big decision for schools but was also a big decision for CDAT as any school wishing to join had to commit to 3 “pillars”:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school’s Christian ethos was strong;</li> <li>• The school was committed to collaborating with schools already in the Trust to share good practice, which helped schools to grow and improve</li> <li>• The school was committed to providing the best education for children. This would look different at each school as they varied in size, location and social mix.</li> </ul> <p>CDAT wanted schools to retain their own identities and have freedom around the curriculum with no set schemes around specific subjects. It was what worked well for each school that mattered.</p> <p><b>Management Structure</b></p> <p>The management structure of CDAT comprised of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Trust Members</li> <li>• Board of Trustees which oversaw what was going on across the Trust. The Trustees were appointed by the Members and had specific specialisms</li> <li>• Chief executive who was responsible for the day to day running</li> <li>• Central Team of 2 arms – a school team of 3 school advisors and a finance and operations team. This would increase as the Trust grew.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>The school’s budget goes to the Trust who take a management fee of 5% from the GAG which was below the national average for MATs. All earmarked funds for PP etc go directly to the schools. The 5% was reviewed annually. <b>TK asked if school actually received 5% more value by joining the Trust. ND advised that as part of any due diligence. The school would review its’ Service Level Agreements with the local authority or other contractors and reach the appropriate conclusion.</b></p> <p>PP/SP/SEND monies remained with the school and any reserves which the school might have also remained with the school.</p> <p>In respect of capital projects, the Diocese received a School Condition Allowance which it distributed to schools. Individual schools could make CIF bids but once the Trust reached 3,000 pupils than all schools would receive the School Condition Allowance. Schools would</p>

retain DFC monies.  
Any costs incurred by the school during the consultation process would be covered by a Conversion Grant of £25,000.

Financially, none of the CDAT schools were worse off and schools could benefit from economies of scale. Joining a MAT should not be a financial decision

### **Staffing**

ND advised that nothing changed. In regard to pay and conditions as teaching and non-teaching staff retained their current positions. Although all staff would be employed by CDAT, staff remained in their own schools. The Trust recognised national agreements around pay and pensions. Staff would also benefit from CPD and individual development which would enable them to get better at their jobs

### **Support**

A group of Senior Headteachers from the trust provided subject speciality advice and provided CPD. Other services such as HR, payroll, legal, health and safety etc were outsourced to private companies.

Training was provided for Governors via the NGA and as part of the Conference of Schools Trust. ND met with Chairs/Vice Chairs at a monthly Forum. Half termly meetings were held as a Head Teachers Group and all schools received 6 SIP visits per year

### **Governance**

In respect of governance, all schools retained a Local Governing Body and the Trust recommended a flat structure without committees. LGBs would meet twice per term and CDAT would provide a year planner to inform agenda composition. CDAT recognised that schools needed the local expertise of the governors to continue to work effectively in their role. Networking events with Chairs of Governors and Headteachers were also organised.

### **Legal Issues**

AM raised the issue of the position of The Comberbach Trust who owned the land and buildings on which the school was situated. ND advised that the school was working with a school with a similar situation but any legal transfer of land and buildings would be via a long term lease arrangement. It did mean, however, that the Trust would have to be included in the consultation process and approve any move to academisation.

### **Consultation Process**

This could take between 12-18 months to academise depending on complexities. The school needed to undertake a due diligence exercise and it was recommended that this involved asking other CDAT schools what they got out of joining. The Governors would then be required to pass a resolution to move to formal consultation with CDAT which needed to be unanimous. The CDAT Board would also resolve to go to consultation. The consultation was outsourced to AMF and funded via the Conversion Grant.

Consultation process undertaken and a report received from AMF. Governors would pass a second resolution to formally proceed to academisation and a formal application submitted to the DfE.

	Governors thanked ND for attending the meeting
<b>Resolved:</b>	<b>That SD speak to other schools in CDAT and report to Governors accordingly.</b>
<b>Agenda item 3</b>	<b>DAMPCOURSE REMEDIAL WORK</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Governors were advised that an inspection had revealed that the joists in the cupboard off the Hall had wet rot whilst a new damp proof course needed to be installed around the outside perimeter wall of The Hall and the wall adjoining the School House and the School Kitchen.</p> <p>Accordingly, quotations for the work had been sought and the Chair advised that one had been received from Timberwise in the sum of £4,444. If approved this would be funded via a 10% contribution from the Governors' Current Account with the remainder being funded by Devolved Formula Capital Sustainability Grant funding.</p> <p>LL asked AM if the Trustees would be willing to make a contribution to the Governors' 10% as part of the work impacted on the adjoining wall with the School House and the School Kitchen. AM will discuss this request with the Trustees and report back at the next FGB.</p>
<b>Resolved:</b>	<b>That the quotation received from Timberwise in the sum of £4,444 for the works detailed above, be accepted.</b>

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.00pm**