

Exeter Children's Federation

Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Governing Body

Meeting Minutes

Clerk: Neil Keen

Date: 8 th February 2016	Venue: Wynstream Primary School	Time 18:30
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Present:

Peter Vickery	Local Authority Governor (Chair)
Martyn Boxall	Ex Officio (Executive Head Teacher)
Rebecca Bowden	Parent Governor
Michaela Young	Parent Governor
Terri-Anne Hornby	Co-opted Governor
Chris Neads	Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
Lisa Sayers	Co-opted Governor
Emma Bowler	Co-opted Governor
Gill Brown	Associate Governor (no voting rights)
Chris Briggs	Associate Governor (no voting rights)
David Coven	Staff Governor

Apologies:

Will Sweeney	Trust Governor
Grace Williams	Trust Governor

2/1 **Apologies Received**

Grace Williams and Will Sweeney

2/2 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Agreed as an accurate record and signed by the chair.

2/3 **Completion of Register of Business Interests**

All governors present signed a copy of the register of business interests. The clerk will ask the absent governors to complete a copy and place it on file to be updated in September 2016.

2/4 **To consider whether the Exeter Children's Federation should become an Academy and, if so, whether it should seek to join an existing Multi Academy Trust or join with other schools to form a new Trust.**

MB explained that he had put a proposal and an agenda together for the recent trust meeting but it was clear that the current trust did not want to move forward in the direction suggested by the ECF or consider changing the current model.

MB then put forward a proposal to leave the trust which was unanimously accepted.

MB explained that he is in a position where he has been doing a lot of work looking at creating of a multi academy trust (MAT) and there are currently 5 schools around the table who are interested in exploring this option i.e. the formation of a MAT.

The interested schools have all had a meeting which focussed clearly on what all schools want and why the schools are looking to work collaboratively to improve standards and quality of outcomes.

MB to produce a consultation document about collaboration. Whatever the federation does next must ensure benefits for the children it serves.

By the end of February Martyn is hoping to have a consultation document in place and by the 1st March could see the launch of the first consultation period. The Department for Education (DFE) would assign a broker to assist with the process and at the end of the initial consultation the governors would look at all responses and work out advantages and disadvantages before commencing another 6 weeks consultation period.

The proposals would include bringing the teaching alliance into the MAT and hardwiring it as opposed to it being invitational.

PV commented that the benefits of the collaboration would be the economies of scale as well as the ability to be able to purchase educational services in an open marketplace. MB explained that a MAT with upwards of 1000 pupils would enable the MAT to achieve economies of scale, but wouldn't know what those would be exactly until formed.

The model of the MAT would be based on the co-operative values and governors would be reporting to other governors in lead areas, the governing body would become very strategic. EB asked how often the trust board would meet and MB explained that realistically this would be every 4-6 weeks.

TAH asked if the teaching consortium would still exist and MB confirmed that it would.

CN asked MB what the other schools would bring to the table. MB and GB explained that every school that has expressed an interest in being part of the MAT has already contributed a lot and would continue to do and that the model would ensure that all schools contribute and there are mutual benefits. MB was clear that all schools around the table have something to add and share the guiding principles of the co-operative model of working together.

Governors discussed the benefits of forming a MAT which included the financial freedoms for money to be spent where needed on more bespoke services that the County Council can't provide currently as well as greater opportunities for staff to develop and for the MAT to grow and develop its own future leaders.

The proposal to convert the Exeter Children's Federation to an academy was put to the vote. Proposed by LS and seconded by CN. All governors eligible to vote were unanimous in the decision that the school should convert to an academy.

A 2nd proposal was made for the Federation to seek to work with other like-minded schools to form a MAT. TAH proposed and CN seconded the proposal. All governors were unanimously in favour of forming a MAT.

2/5 **To consider a request from St. Christopher's Multi Academy Trust to support its bid to run a new primary and nursery school in the Alphington development area.**

PV explained that he had been approach by the diocese for the federation to support their bid to bring a new Church of England school online in the Alphington/Exminster area. Governors discussed this in detail and agreed the need to support and bring a new school online, however they felt that there should be more diversity and choice in the admissions criteria for any new school opening. Governors

were also mindful of the fact that there is already a Church of England School in close proximity. PV agreed to respond to the Diocese.

2/6 **Any Other Business**

MB informed governors that he has been instructed by the Authority that Montgomery will need to be closed on the 5th May 2016 as the site is to be used for a polling station in the upcoming police and crime commissioner elections. CB will arrange for a letter to go out to parents/carers immediately.

MB explained that in light of the decisions taking by the governors earlier in the meeting and given the tight window to move things forward, he needs GB and CB to step up as head teachers and have full control and running of the schools from now until the end of the process. MB praised both of them for their support so far and has total faith in both of them now stepping up as head teachers and taking on full responsibility. Governors agreed this and noted it will take place immediately to free Martyn up with the MAT work in hand.

2/7 **Date/Time of next meeting** – 21st March 2016 @ 18.30 at Wynstream.