



MINUTES OF THE FEDERATION TRUST MEETING

Thursday 17 October 2024, 8.15am
The Gallery

Present

Rob Guthrie, Andrew Holt (Chair), Guy Magrath, Lindsey Madeley-Harland (via Teams), Alex Mould, Clive Norgaard Morton, Mark Tinkler (Vice Chair), Stuart Williams (Executive Principal).

In Attendance

Kelly Jackson (Head of Catmose Primary), Oliver Teasel (Head of Harington School), Chris Wilson (Chief Finance Officer), Sheryl Wilson (Governance Professional).

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Trustees unanimously agreed that Andrew Holt would stand for another year as chair of the trust and Mark Tinkler as vice chair.

2. Welcome introductions and apologies for absence

Andrew Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Trustees were informed that Martyn Rhowbotham had resigned from his positions of; trustee, member of the Resources Committee and a governor on the Catmose College Local Governing Body. Martyn was thanked for his 11 years of dedication and service to the Federation.

3. Declarations of Personal Interest and Pecuniary Interest

Andrew Holt declared an interest in agenda item number 6 of Matthew Holt's term of office.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 July 2024

The minutes were signed to be a true and accurate record.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters from the previous minutes.

6. Governance Professional

Trustees were thanked for their completion of the annual safeguarding and prevent training.

A summary of the changes made to the Academy Trust Handbook 2024 was discussed with Trustees, and they were encouraged to read the handbook.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66a3909aab418ab055592dda/Academy_trust_handbook_2024_FINAL.pdf

The following terms of office were discussed:

- Matthew Holt (Harington Local Governing Body, 10.12.24, appointed by the Trust)
- Andreas Menzies (Harington Local Governing Body, 10.12.24, appointed by the Trust)
- Guy Magrath (Trustee – 10.12.24, appointed by the Trust)

Trustees agreed to re-appoint the above for another 4-year term.

7. Principal's Update

Stuart Williams reported that it had been a settled start to the College, with behaviour and attendance in a good place. The GCSE results were positive, with students gaining around ½ grade higher. The work undertaken last year on the attainment of Free School Meal students had made a positive impact and their results were more in line with national.

Transformation Plan priorities for this year will include:

- Continuous focus on routines for learning
- Free School Meals First strategy
- Student wellbeing with the use of social media, violent gaming, pornography and its impact on anxiety and extreme views
- Subject reviews for physics, chemistry, biology and Spanish

Head of Catmose Primary Update

Kelly Jackson confirmed the primary had had a good start to the year. There had been some movement with teachers and classes and this had worked well. This academic year there will be a focus on the music curriculum, as there is a new national model for primary schools to follow. The reading curriculum will also be embedded in line with the Department for Education. Senior leaders are reviewing the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum to ensure there is a focus on digital wellbeing and a review of nurture and trauma practice will take place. In terms of the Key Stage 2 outcomes, these were above national figures, apart from the reading of greater depth, this will be a focus this year in order to challenge more able pupils.

Andrew Holt noted that he had recently visited the primary school and commented how delightful the primary school is, there is an excellent standard of teaching with equally good pupil behaviour.

Head of Harington School Update

Oliver Teasel confirmed that there are 175 students on roll in Year 12 with the majority of students coming from Catmose College. Work will be done this year on the admissions process to ensure it is a seamless process for anyone wishing to apply.

The school celebrated another outstanding set of A level results, with over 30% of all grades awarded A*/A and over 85% A*-C. This year over 50% of the cohort have gone onto universities ranked in the top 30 in the country by the Times Good University Guide 2025. Subjects that stood out for their A level results were: computer

science, French, further maths, history and psychology. Subject reviews will take place in physics and maths.

Trustees noted that student numbers admitted into Year 12 were higher than the school had planned for and they queried how this impacted on social spacing. Oliver Teasel advised that the school does feel full, although similar numbers into Year 12 had been admitted in the last 3 years. The higher number of students is not impacting on results, and the student survey indicates that students are extremely happy at the school. The answer is to expand Harington due to the demand for places, however, this will require a funding bid. A working party will be put in place by the Harington School Local Governing Body.

8. Consultation re mobile phone base

A mobile phone company has recently approached the College to install a mast in the College grounds. Trustees agreed to give Stuart Williams delegated powers to enter into negotiations and then to report back to the Trust prior to any decision being made.

Trustees asked if it is also possible to look at the 'self-made path' which has been created by pedestrians walking to and from the College via Barleythorpe Road. This can be looked into by the Operations Director.

Green gates have recently been installed on the site; signage will be displayed to make everyone aware of the new gates prior to the gates being utilised.

9. Agenda Items for Audit and Scrutiny Risk Assessment Committee

The dates of the Audit and Scrutiny Risk Assessment Committee have been agreed as below and agenda items will be finalised as the year progresses.

- 6.2.25
- 27.3.25
- 15.5.25

10. Policies

The below policies were ratified by Trustees, details of changes were shared on the Trustees' portal.

- Federation Health and Safety - no change
- Federation Reference policy – new policy. Trustees agreed that under 2.1 a line should be added to the effect of: *If the reference is for the Executive Principal, this should be checked and signed by the Chair of Trustees.*

11. A.O.B.

A letter from the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) was shared with trustees, detailing departmental changes.

Stuart Williams' Performance Review document was shared. Each year 3 trustees and an independent consultant meet with him to discuss the previous year and to set targets for the forthcoming year. Trustees commented that this was an outstanding performance. Senior leadership targets should not only focus on the 'what's' but also the 'how's'.

Question: How has the new school uniform settled?

Trustees noted that the new blazers look very smart. The benefit to parents is that there are now two suppliers, the number of branded items has reduced with an additional benefit of a reduced cost for some uniform items.

Attendance at meetings

The online form had been reviewed for governors' and trustees' attendance at meetings in the last academic year. A discussion had previously been held regarding Lindsey Madeley-Harland's attendance and trustees had accepted her reasons for not being able to attend Trust meetings recently. Sara Kane (governance professional of Harington Local Governing Body) will write to Ben Solly to note his non-attendance in the last academic year and to discuss a way forward.

Date of Next Meeting

| | |
|--|--|
| Catmose College Governors and Trustees Day | Thursday 7 November 2024 |
| Trust meeting | Thursday 5 December 2024, 8.15am |
| Christmas Concert | Wednesday 18 December 2024, 6.30pm, All Saints' Church, Oakham |