

**Eynsham Partnership Academy
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Thursday 15 June 2022, 6 pm
Virtual via Zoom**

Present:

Members: Gavin Robinson (GR) (**Chair** of Members), Gordon Joyner (GJ) (Corporate Diocesan Member), Jonathan Marks (JM); Jo Godsal (JG), David Tyler (DT),

In attendance: David Brown (DB) EPA CEO, Ros Avery (RA), EPA CFO

Apologies: Julian Soanes (JS) (Chair of Directing Board);

Minutes

| Item | Item title |
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| 1. | Welcome GR welcomed Members. |
| 2. | Minutes of the EPA AGM on 24th June 2021 and any matters arising The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2021 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by GR for filing on Minutes files of Academy. There were no matters arising. |
| 3. | EPA Annual Accounts year ended 31 August 2021, for approval CFO report previously circulated. Members also reviewed the slide presentation summarising the annual accounts and raised questions on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional one-off income in 20-21 relates to conversion of Heyford Park and capital grants • Staff numbers have increased due to Heyford Park joining EPA • Only one low risk in the <i>report to management</i> and no unreported suggestions from the auditors Members assured themselves of the ongoing financial probity of the EPA MAT, noting that the EPA's Finance & Resources Committee and Audit Committee meet regularly to discuss details of the EPA finances. The Accounts have been submitted to Companies House and the DfE as statutorily required. Members approved the Accounts. Brief update on expected financial position at 31 August 2022 CFO reports previously circulated. Members noted the current financial status of the EPA and the , predicted end of year financial position. Overall reserves are forecast to be £291k better than budgeted. The capital spend from reserves has been used to refurbish two extra classrooms at Eynsham and replace the portacabin English classrooms at Bartholomew. Register of Interest Action: Directors are asked to update their entries in the register and return to the CFO. |
| 4. | Appointment of the auditors for year ended 31 August 2023 |

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| | <p>RA reminded Members that the tender for auditors James Cowper Kreston expires this year. The audit committee will need to decide if they want to continue with the current auditors for a further two years or re-tender for the accounts to 31 August 2023. The CFO reported that whilst the members appoint auditors at the AGM this does not prohibit a change of auditors during the year.</p> <p>Members noted the appointment of auditors.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Appointment of Members' Chair 2022-23</p> <p>Members <i>agreed</i> to appoint GR as Chair for the next academic year.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Update from, and Q&A with, Chair of EPA and CEO, re EPA Growth Strategy & School Standards</p> <p><u>White paper</u>: The CEO summarised the current position on the potential School's Bill and any implications for EPA whilst recognising the political situation.</p> <p><u>Pre-school</u>: CEO reported on the Eynsham Pre-School move to EPA occurring now in September and that actually this was not a Member's decision as the actual change was in the age range at ECPS. The Pre-School is not actually 'joining', it is simply closing.</p> <p><u>Garden Village/Salt Cross</u>: Some progress has occurred in planning terms but this was still a long term project rather than for 2022.</p> <p><u>Heyford</u>: Strong progress has continued to be made and good results expected in the Summer at both KS2 and GCSE. However, as before more pupils are still needed. The short term financial position was challenging despite the long term looking very healthy with massive housing growth continuing at pace around the school.</p> <p><u>Overall results – SATs</u>: The CEO explained that the expectation was that good progress will be made against 2019 but results were not out until 5th July.</p> <p>Ofsted: Freeland CE Primary School had a Section 8 Inspection on May 10th this year. This went very well and confidentially (the report is not yet published) the school obtained a Category 1 Good – the CEO explained the context of the new inspection handbook grades.</p> <p><u>SCA threshold '3000'</u>: The CEO reported that the Trust was now about 90 pupils away from this.</p> <p>A question was asked by the Chair about the <u>ethos and culture</u> of the Trust, not as there was a perceived problem but that this was an important area which was not often discussed. The CEO spoke about staffing (recruitment & retention, and the high level of commitment staff had shown to their students especially after the challenges of the last few years), safeguarding and pastoral work (especially post Covid) and the links with governing bodies and communities.</p> <p><u>Director Vacancies</u>: The Board currently has 9 Directors after Ross Macken joined the Board in the early Spring as discussed before. The Board had completed a skills audit and is actively looking to fill those skills gaps (areas such as PR/Comms) and will keep Members informed prior to any possible recommendations to this Board.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Brief update on expected EPA financial position at end 2021-22 and Budget 2022-23</p> |

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| | <p>It was reported that the Trust was in a sound position for 2021-22 and the monthly monitoring reports indicated that this was in line with the forecasts.</p> <p>As regards 2022-23 there were a number of uncertainties in relation to both energy costs and staffing costs. The budget for 2022-23 looked stable at the moment but the Trust would review as the year proceeded.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Member vacancies</p> <p>The EPA Articles allow for 8 Members but it is not a requirement to have 8. There are currently 6 Members. There are thus 2 vacancies, one of which is a Diocesan appointment.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Dates of meetings 2022-23</p> <p>While it is not necessary for Members to meet other than for the AGM, GR proposed that the members should continue to meet three times a year.</p> |

Meeting closed: 19:00
RA/DB/20.6.22