

## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on 6.12.22 at Belle Vale Primary School, Besford Rd, Liverpool L25 2QF

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### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Maureen McDaid, David Blythe, Richard Lovegrove, Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens, Marlene Taylor, Hayley Igbokwe.

**Apologies:** Michael Morris, Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien, Ian Smith, Mary Donohue, Danielle Azanuwha, Joyce Smith, Cliff Barton, Peter Devaney.

The meeting commenced at 10:05 when MMcD the acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guest speaker who joined us via zoom.

**Guest speaker:** Jonathan Nichols, CEO of The Rainbow Educational Trust. Please see Appendix A.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No changes to previous information were declared.

#### 1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

#### 1.4 Matters Arising

Actions	
a. NGA invoice to be investigated	DB
b. Media platforms to be investigated	HI/DA
c. Discussion on future conference date/venue.	All

- a. DB reported that he had queried the cost of renewing the NGA subscription. NGA confirmed the correct cost of the annual subscription by email on the 14.11.22 as £75. A cheque for this amount has been issued.

- b. HI has investigated potential media platforms to replace the LGF Twitter account. She felt a LinkedIn account would present a more professional service as invitations to view the service can be targeted at individuals and there are more controls in place regarding advertising. It was noted that Twitter can be used to direct users to a link to Linked In. DC suggested members should contact their individual schools regarding their use of Twitter. This is to be added to the Agenda for the LGF meeting to be held in February 2023
- c. LGF Conference – See 2.3

## **2.0 LGF Matters and Events**

### **2.1 Finance**

DB reported that the current LGF bank statement is still awaited. The account balance will be confirmed asap.

### **2.2 Feedback from Events**

Not Applicable

### **2.3 Future Events**

DB reported that he had met with MM to discuss the future LGF Conference. It was agreed that the subject should be Attachment and Trauma. The suggested dates for the conference were 24.6.23 and 13.5.23. It was noted that the conference had been successfully held at the Partnership for Learning venue previously and provided ample parking and access by road and motorway. DC is to confirm availability with the venue.

### **2.4 Website**

DB reported that the website is up to date.

### **2.5 Twitter Account**

Not Applicable

### **2.6 Others**

Not Applicable

## **3.0 Feedback from Representatives**

### **3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum**

DB informed the meeting that he had attended LSF Budget Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meeting on 29.11.22 and advised that the majority of the central charges taken from the educational budget were gradually being phased.

It was noted that the LSF main committee meeting has been moved to 5 January 2023.

### **3.2 LLP Executive Board**

Not applicable

### **3.3 LLP All Learners**

The next meeting is to be held in January 2023.

### **3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More**

The next meeting is to be held in January 2023.

### **3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)**

DA is now on the contact list for this committee and will be advised of future meetings.

### **3.6 Other**

MMc reported that she had attended a SEND Commissioning Meeting and learnt that a guide for parents of children, young people, and families living with a neurological developmental need is to be published. MMc has requested that a glossary be included in the front of the guide to assist parents and others to better understand the guide which is designed to explain the process for accessing help.

MMc also requested that the guide be shared with LGF members and published on the LGF website.

MMc also asked for a realistic time scale for parents trying to access such services as CAHMs and YPAS and was told there was open access but currently an 18-week wait although emergency requests are dealt with urgency.

All Children Services are now to be funded by Children Services and PLACE which brings together Liverpool Safeguarding Board, Bully Busters, and Young Carers.

MMc asked what measures were in place for monitoring this service to ensure the impact was measured. The response was that the baseline is looked at. MMc felt it would be useful to have more detailed feedback. She is to pursue this issue.

The next SEND Commissioning meeting is to be held on 10.1.23.

MMc said that work is to be done in relation to the offer of short breaks (for special schools). Less traditional, more personalised providers are being sought. MMc highlighted that this expenditure must be monitored and managed. MMc is to ask how this will be regulated at the next meeting.

### **4.0 Other Items:**

Not Applicable

The meeting concluded at 11:06

<b>Actions</b>	
Members are to contact their individual schools regarding Twitter use	All
Partnership for Learning to be contacted regarding availability	DC

The next LGF meeting will be held on **Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 10:00 at The Beacon C of E School, Heyworth St, Liverpool L5 3QG**. Guest speakers will be Danielle Sewoo and Neelam Chohan, Hate Crime Community Police officers from Merseyside Police.

## APPENDIX A

Jonathan Nichols CEO of The Rainbow Educational Multi-Academy Trust (REMAT) addressed the meeting via Zoom and gave a general update on Academisation, highlighting the following:

JN said he would speak generally on academisation and was not going to preach or promote The Rainbow Education Trust.

He said that governors must take many things into account when considering joining a Trust and initially both the school and Trust must work together to understand each other and ensure their culture and ethos are compatible.

JN highlighted that there is confusion regarding the role of a governor once the school has entered a MAT. He said that a 'good' trustee should not interfere with the general governance of the school. That is the job of the governors. Trustees will not have the knowledge that governors have at the school level. JN said schools should have a clear plan in place that would be supported by the trustees but implemented by the governors.

JN noted that ultimate responsibility in a MAT sits with the members. Authority is delegated to the trustees, via Articles of Association, which act rather like a LA.

JN noted that funding is an obvious concern of governors when considering entering a Trust. He reassured the meeting that any reserves the school had when entering a Trust would be retained and highlighted that a Trust would not underfund a school as it wished the school to thrive and be the best it can be.

At the REMAT, budgets are set by the CEO and Headteacher, the governors then manage the budget and can apply to the Trust for funding for additional projects.

JN advised the meeting to be wary of any Trust that offered the school funds as an incentive to join them.

JN said that governors must be aware of how Trusts generate funds, highlighting that The Rainbow Education Trust raises additional funds through successful bids and providing outreach support for other schools.

Schools and Trusts must realise that funding mechanisms are changing for LAs and MATs. The government now wants academies, alongside basic funding, to apply for funding for specific building reasons from Conditional Improvement Fund or teaching and learning reasons from the Trust Capacity Improvement Fund. This is designed to prevent schools from holding unspent reserves as the expenditure will be scrutinised to ensure it has been appropriately spent.

JN noted that the government has had to think of the whole country which included remote areas that have no existing MATS. This led to the government suggesting LA MATs. JN doubted the viability of these LA MATs and directed governors to an [article published in School's Week on Place](#).

JN expressed concern at the influence of larger Trusts as schools can lose their identity in a large Trust. Furthermore, the large Trusts will not have local knowledge.

At the moment, schools with a 'good' Ofsted judgment have a choice of which MAT to join. This will not be the case with other schools who may be directed to particular MATs.

JN highlighted the importance of legislation and the influence it has on the future of schools/academies. He cautioned against setting up a local network, warning governors that they must consider who would be accountable, who would sit on the Trustee Board, what their skills are, etc. noting the skills needed to be a trustee were quite different from the skills needed to be a governor.

JN said the most important thing that governors should consider is whether their school can flourish in a particular Trust and said it was important for the school to act sooner rather than later in choosing a Trust to join.

**JN invited any questions from committee members:**

MMc asked: How large is REMAT?

*JN replied - The Trust is across 5 LA's and has a Teaching School Hub in Sefton, Knowsley, and St Helens and therefore has a good footprint across Merseyside.*

MT asked: If the REMAT is likely to become one of the larger Trusts.

*JN replied- No as the Trust is looking to ensure each existing school is doing well before any other schools are allowed to join and will only work in the Mersey Region and are not looking to expand nationally.*

JN was thanked for his contribution by MMc who said he may be invited to address a meeting in the future.

DC expressed concern that larger academies are trying to influence the government to gather schools into clusters and then direct them to the larger MATS to allow the MATs to establish a presence in areas where they currently do not have a presence.

HI highlighted that all FE Colleges have been handed to the Public Sector with effect from 29.11.22. The colleges are now run by the LCC. Previously colleges had been run as charitable trusts. The decision was made by the Office of National Statistics.

HI is to keep the LGF informed and offered to provide a speaker for a future meeting.