

Meeting of Rosendale-Elmgreen Multi-Academy Trust Steering Group

2 December 2016

Chair: Marc Rowland

From Rosendale Governing Body: Kate Atkins, Jeremy Baker*, Dharshi David, Caroline Gray, Biba Stanton

From The Elmgreen School Governing Body: Cathy Ashley, Dominic Bergin, Michael Brady, Edwina Nummey Sandy Nuttgens, Kate Scrase

*Jeremy Baker is also a governor at the Elmgreen School.

Michael Burke, Director of Finance and Administration at The Elmgreen School was present as minute taker.

The meeting opened at 4.07pm

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies from: Adrian Butler, , Tony Pizzoferro, Shola Salako, Rosie Unwin, Jo Wallman

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November had previously been circulated and were agreed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not already on the agenda)

3.1 Jeremy Baker raised the issue a matter relating to minute 4.7 concerning the local governing bodies and the right of the Rosendale local governing body to co-opt members. It seems unequitable that the Rosendale board could be appointed by the trust whilst this appeared not to be the case for The Elmgreen School.

3.2 It was noted that The Elmgreen School had a foundation body who could continue to appoint foundation governors, but as a former community school Rosendale had no body to appoint governors other than the board of trustees. It was agreed that a form of wording could be found for the scheme of delegation that gave the Rosendale governing body power to appoint members. The existing governing body would translate into the new local governing body on conversion.

3.3 Sandy Nuttgens asked about what response had been made to the consultation. Rosendale felt that it had been adequately addressed at the full governing body meeting.

Action: Dominic Bergin to draw up the response to the consultation for The Elmgreen School.

3.4 Banking. Michael Burke reported that one meeting had taken place about possible banking arrangements for the trust. A further meeting was planned.

4. Items from the last meeting

4.1 Trustees

4.1.1 The decision on the trustees would be taken by the members. The steering group would be making recommendations to the members as to membership of the trust board.

4.1.2 The CEO and Headteacher were only trustees if invited by the members to sit on the board and did however count towards the overall number of trustees.

4.1.3 Each member of the steering group who had suggested a potential trustee was asked to speak to their proposal. Proposed trustees who were present spoke on their own behalf.

i. Marc Rowland (Kate Atkins)

- Worked with Rosendale on research project
- Extensive experience with SEND and PPG
- Charity work
- Very committed to the ethos

ii. Sarah Horrocks (Kate Atkins)

- Works for London City Learning Centre
- Brings first hand experience of new technology in education
- Strategic partner in the Education Endowment Foundation Project
- Fully Supportive of the Ethos

iii. Sarah Totton (Kate Atkins)

- Director of Leadership at Legal and General
- HR and Finance
- Rosendale parent
- Great supporter of the school ethos
- Closely involved in the life of the school

iv. Mike Brady

- Knowledge of schools through membership of The Elmgreen School governing body
- Fully committed to the ethos
- Supportive of equal opportunities and inclusive
- Extensive experience of work in the charity sector and of charity governance
- Organisational development and change management through work in NHS.

v. Denys Wallace (Dominic Bergin)

- Director of Wandle Teaching Alliance
- Coach
- School Improvement
- Continuing Professional Development and Performance Management
- 44 years teaching experience

vi. Joan O'Mahoney (Cathy Ashley – PPF)

- Vice chair PPF

- Works in higher education
 - Board level experience
 - Worked on access to higher education
 - Very committed to The Elmgreen School
- vii. Sandy Nuttgens
- Involved in the set up of The Elmgreen School
 - First chair of governors
 - Professionally involved in creativity
 - Committed to creativity in schools
- viii. Kate Scrase
- Chair of Governors
 - Parent at The Elmgreen School
 - Has legal skills. 11 years as a practicing solicitor
 - Now working in SEND
 - Committed to the ethos
- ix. Mike Hirt (Biba Stanton)
- Rosendale Parent
 - Wants to contribute more to the school
 - Works for the Financial Conduct Authority in IT
 - Very keen and committed
- x. Jeremy Baker
- Previously a solicitor
 - Served as a Lambeth Councillor including being deputy cabinet member for education
 - Chair of Governors at Rosendale
 - Clerk to governors.

4.1.4 The Steering group agreed the following recommendation to members:

- Chairs of Governors – Jeremy Baker and Kate Scrase
- Headteacher – Dominic Bergin
- CEO/Accounting Officer – Kate Atkins
- PPF Trustee – Joan O’Mahoney

4.1.5 A vote was taken on the remaining nominations for trustees

4.1.6 The following were recommended to members as trustees:

- Mike Brady
- Sarah Horrocks
- Sandy Nuttgens
- Marc Rowland
- Denys Wallace

- Sarah Tottam

- 4.1.7 The steering group did not recommend the appointment for Mike Hirt
- 4.1.8 The issue of the diversity of the trustees was discussed as it was felt that it should reflect the community within which the trust will operate. It was agreed that ethnicity and gender were issues that must be considered
- 4.1.9 It was acknowledged that time frames were very tight and there were constraints imposed on membership by the required skill sets. The proposed trustees were not a final and unchangeable membership. It was agreed that strategies should be developed for developing a wider range of people to come forward as trustees including looking at terms of office to ensure change. The trust could also co-opt trustees.

Action: to look at whether the trustees being recommended to members represent the community and decide what further action is needed.

4.2 School Improvement Strategy.

- 4.2.1 This document had been circulated prior to the meeting on 23 November and was now tabled
- 4.2.2 This document was taken from the details given in the Consultation Document.
- 4.2.3 Nothing in the consultation feedback had commented on the school improvement proposals
- 4.2.4 The strategy would be a supporting document for the academy conversion application
- 4.2.5 The strategy was agreed subject a small number of amendments.

4.3 Ethos Statement

- 4.3.1 The final draft of the statement was tabled
- 4.3.2 The statement was agreed subject to a re-ordering of the individual statements.

4.4 Trust Name

- 4.4.1 The last meeting had discussed the proposed name of the 'Great North Wood Multi Academy Trust'.
- 4.4.2 The chair had received no further proposals
- 4.4.3 It was suggested that the term academy be removed from the name as there were still negative associations with the term.
- 4.4.4 The name Great North Wood Education Trust was suggested
- 4.4.5 The consensus was for the use of the term education rather than academy
- 4.4.6 It was agreed that for the present this was a working title.

4.5 Timeline

4.5.1 A revised timeline was tabled

4.5.2 The timeline had been adjusted to reflect changes such as the submission of the application and then meeting of the Headteacher board.

4.5.3 The timeline still showed a conversion date of 1 March even though the 1 April was now more likely. This change did not affect the majority of the required actions.

4.5.4 The memorandum of understanding, whilst not a part of the application would be needed soon afterwards.

Action: Stone King Solicitors to draft the memorandum

5. Draft Application

5.1 The deadline for the application is 9 December 2016.

5.2 The application will be shared with the steering group, but the deadline is very tight.

Action: Blank form to be circulated to the steering group. Any particular issues about the information required should be fed back to Kate Atkins or Dominic Bergin.

6. Post Application

6.1 It was any further meetings of the steering group would be convened as required.

6.2 It was agreed that evening meetings were better to ensure maximum attendance

6.3 The issue of any further meeting to consider the articles was raised.

Action: Michael Burke will contact Stone King about the draft articles and when in relation to the meeting of the Headteacher Board these would now need to be submitted. Following from that establish when they would need to be circulated to the steering group.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 The Rosendale School Keepers House. It is possible that Lambeth may wish to retain ownership.

The meeting closed at 17.36pm