

	Actions
<p><b>1. Attendance:</b> SPenman (chair); PAskew; JHladkiwskyj; PMackay (CEO)  <b>In attendance:</b> SSpira (clerk)  <b>Apologies:</b> RBridge, EDeem            Meeting taken via Zoom video link due to Covid-19 emergency measures.</p> <p><b>2. Declarations of Interest:</b></p> <p>No changes to declarations of interest were made.</p> <p><b>3. Minutes of last meeting (18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 &amp; April 2020)</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true record.</p> <p><b>4. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No matters arising that are not covered by the report to the Members.</p> <p><b>5. Report from the board</b></p> <p>The largest element of the work of the board has been supporting the schools through the closure/reopening of schools following the COVID-19 pandemic. All schools have worked incredibly hard and coped very well with the crisis. The pace of regular change from government has been difficult to manage but school leaders have managed very admirably.</p> <p>Attendance at GCA is high in the year groups where they are open. GBA is open for all year groups on a partial timetable. GPS is partially open for required year groups and attendance is good.</p> <p>Homelearning has been a good standard and parental communication has been excellent.</p> <p>SP: what has been the feedback from parents? PM: on the whole very positive. GPS has rebuilt trust with many parents through this period due to the level of support and communication from the school.</p> <p>Meetings with the SLT have been weekly or more and leadership have been positive and responsive to all challenges.</p> <p>PA: reveals a reassurance about the quality of staff and processes within the Trust at a local level. The Members would like to record their thanks and recognition for all the leadership of the schools.</p> <p><u>September 2020 planning:</u></p> <p>Since the guidance from the government the SLT has been working to ensure opening can happen as safely as possible. Schools are working towards opening in year group or 2 class bubbles to ensure adequate staffing is possible.</p> <p>Kids club will be reopening and plans are proceeding to ensure the cross bubble is limited.</p>	

Risk assessments are being updated and PM is working with the new trusts to ensure they are satisfied with the new risk assessments.

PA: there may need to be more planning for varied or blended learning that can operate both remotely and within school and in the long term? PM: schools have been looking to enable high level home learning in case of local or national closure, and in the case of individual self-isolations. There could be a significant change in learning techniques and teaching methods as a result of the pandemic.

Trust Transfers

CAM Academy Trust declined to proceed so the negotiations with Diamond Learning Partnership Trust started very promptly and has progressed very quickly. The board of DLPT has supported the transfer as has the DFE and Headteacher board. All legal documentation is now in place.

ACES transfer has continued as planned. There is an outstanding issue around the playing field at GBA which is being resolved – lack of drainage of the field. The local authority is supporting OLT to get the field repaired. PM is working with the solicitors to ensure the lease arrangements are appropriate and the field repairs are managed correctly.

All documents should be ready to sign in the next week ready for formal transfer from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

ACES are starting to work with the schools and interacting with the Heads of Schools of GCA and GBA. PM and DFinney have been working very closely with DLPT through the process, regarding staffing in particular.

Trust closure – the audited accounts will be ready for the meeting of the Board in early October. The solicitors supporting the closure have advised the closure point should be 3 months from the transfer instead of 2 months, but PM is querying with the auditors.

SP: how are staff feeling? PM: GPS staff are more nervous but PM has met with them and discussed the plans. GMC schools are more settled and less concerned.

PA: what happens with governance during the closure time between September and the closure point? Board has agreed that PM will stay in place as CEO until the end of October to oversee the closure. SS will be available as required to support the closure, to ensure the audit runs smoothly and the governance is maintained. The Board of Trustees have agreed to remain in place until the end of October. The closure with Companies House is done by the Trustees. The members have no legal responsibility to act in the closure however a short meeting will happen to confirm the closure actions of the Trustees.

PA: recognition for DH, PM and the Board of Directors for their management through this process and their achievements this year. PA will draft some wording of thanks for the board and recognition of their work.

Pupil outcomes

Due to the pandemic there will be no publishable data. In 2020/21 SATs are expected to come back into place and data will be available. For the children of the schools, their interactions will have been significantly reduced. Schools are looking at how best to support the pupils both from an attainment perspective and a welfare perspective. The funding proposals from the government have not been given with any detail currently. DH: is there support for children who have difficulties with IT or hardware? PM: the government did initially give a programme for providing laptops to families with social workers but they were slow to be provided and schools have adapted through home learning packs. PA: reflective consideration around our assumptions around how we categorise pupils, their learning and their social-economic situations at home.

Trust Risk Register:

The risk register has been updated and each school has a regularly updated risk assessments for each stage of reopening and change through the pandemic. All are signed off by the Board via the CEO.

Financial performance:

The accounts for the trust have been circulated. GCA is in a surplus position and further capital investment is planned for this summer and for further years. A benefit of joining ACES will be that some of the work can be done in house. GBA has a good reserve level, this year there will be a deficit on the in-year budget so some reserves will be used but that is to support the growth of the school to 7 year groups.

GPS as a small primary school has a challenging budget. In 2020/21 it has a more financially viable budget due to staffing restructure.

Overall the trust is in a strong financial position and the reserves after closure will be transferred to the relevant Trusts.

The financial management of the trust has improved significantly and the external accountant has produced accurate and relevant reports to the board.

DH left the meeting

**6. To note the Minutes of board meetings:**

All meeting minutes were circulated. Board meetings have been well attended and efficient. SP: the quality of Trustees and the contribution has been very strong.

PA: when schools return to some form of normality, teachers and school staff may have a different perspective on how the recent period has gone and it would be worth discussing it with them to learn from their perspective.

<p><b>7. Points to Note:</b></p> <p>DHoldsworth: It has not been the year that was expected but the Board would want to comment that the professionals within the trustees have been able to challenge the school leadership individually, which has been a very positive experience. All school leaders have excelled in very challenging situations, their professionalism has been outstanding. The data, risk assessments, planning and reports have been confidence inspiring. PA: managing the schools through the most challenging period in recent memory, at the same time as managing the transition to the other trusts in tandem, is recognised as a significant achievement by the board and the leadership.</p> <p><b>8. <u>Any other business</u></b></p> <p>None.</p> <p>Future date: proposed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 was agreed</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, 8am Zoom Video Conference</b></p>	

Signed by Chairperson: ..... Date: .....