

Tavistock College Full Governing Body Extraordinary Meeting 15 November 2017

Present: RC; PS; TA; TS; TR; SJ; CJ; JSo; AJa; SS; JS; SM; AR; SR; JH; AH

Apologies: AW; NL-W

Absent: AJo

Meeting open: 17:34

RC opened the meeting, which has been called in order for the governing body to vote on whether to proceed into the MAT for 1st January. This decision

- must be unanimous
- will be contingent on there being no outstanding concerns from the TUPE consultations now underway, which will finish on 6th December.

In respect of the latter point, Sarah and Ralph have been monitoring the email set up to receive comments or issues from staff. No issues have at yet been voiced. Notes of the staff consultation meeting held at the college on 7th November, which lists all the questions raised by staff and the answers that were given, have been circulated in advance of the meeting.

RC and SJ have been feeding back to the governing body following each meeting and step of the process. The college has been proactive throughout, and been firm in ensuring issues such as the Co-operative Principles are given due weight. SJ and AH have been active in leading much of the due diligence work.

Opportunity for all governors to raise any final questions, before the vote proceeds.

AH: Flagged to governors that in terms of Risk (to the MAT), Tavistock poses significant risk in respect of the Science Block, and the Athletics Track.

PS: Is conversion on 1st January realistic?

RC: Yes, it is. It's looking probable for 14 (of the 17) schools to convert in January, a few ay follow at a later date. If that timescale slips a little, so be it.

PS: Are we happy we can manage the cashflow over the first couple of months?

AH: We have been building up to this and planning ahead, and we should be fine.

SJ: There will be a delay in getting back the carry forward, but AH has future-proofed us as much as possible. Since receiving our annual condition survey we have accessed some funds which have enabled us to cover some of the areas of concern for the buildings - the remaining window replacements, new fire alarm system, etc.

SS: The Trust is currently working with Interim Trustees and Leadership. Do you foresee any issues as these firm up?

RC: tavistock is in a fairly strong position, and I can't foresee any problems

SJ: Substantive posts haven't yet been advertised

JH: Following decisions by the Trust Board last week, posts will be advertised internally as soon as it's known which schools have voted to proceed for a January conversion (19th November). The posts of CEO and Vice CEO will be subject to interview; these are set for 4th December and a panel of 4 Trustees agreed.

RC: I believe we've got the right people round the table, and the Board is very well intentioned. There's a real impetus to get it right.

SS: I have felt at a governor, to have been kept very well informed. There is inevitably a level of risk, but most of the schools already work together in one form or another.

RC: Thanked SJ and AH for their hard work, in getting us to this point and maintaining our profile so well throughout the process.

Governors reminded that if the decision to convert to an Academy School is taken, there will be no reversal of that decision, and Tavistock College will not be able to revert to being a Maintained School in the future.

Proposal: Tavistock College converts to become an Academy School, and join the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

Prop: PS; Sec: TA Vote carried unanimously
Absent governors AW and NL-W cast their vote in advance of the meeting, via email
AJo voted via telephone, at this point during the meeting
There were no abstentions.

Decision: Tavistock College will convert to an Academy School and join the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

Note: There will be no announcement regarding this decision, until the end of the TUPE consultation period on 6th December 2017