

**MINUTES OF THE TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 10 MAY 2017 AT 6.00 PM
AT LONGSANDS ACADEMY**

PRESENT:

Mr K Wainwright (KW) (Chair)
Mrs J Smith (JS)
Mr R Carroll (RC) (CEO)
Mr G Wright (GW)
Mr R Henthorne (RH)

In attendance: Mrs M Basson (Clerk – MJB)

KW welcomed governors to the first meeting of the SNLP Trust Board under the new structure.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of business Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary business interests on any agenda item.

3. Minutes of the Strategy Committee meeting held on 15 March 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were adopted by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising and all actions were complete.

5. Complaints Policy

The SNLP Complaints policy has been reviewed in accordance with the local authority and was circulated to governors in advance of the meeting to review. The Complaints policy was adopted by the Trust Board.

6. Trust Structure – Committees

SNLP governor area of responsibilities for scrutiny visits were circulated to governors. RC informed governors that the School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been circulated to governors who should arrange scrutiny visits with SLT lead and send completed reports to the Clerk by 10 June 2017. Governors will report on key statements and RAG ratings and feedback actions and responses to the LGCs.

The SNLP Trust committee structure diagram was handed to governors to review.

Governors considered options to expand the number of governors on the Trust Board and membership of the Local Governing Committees (LGCs).

Signature of Chair..... Date.....

MJB

KW highlighted that only one member can sit on the Trust Board. The number of members will increase from 3 to 5 in the future.

The Trust Board plans to recruit and expand its membership to 13 in the future.

RC informed governors of candidates interested in becoming part of the SNLP governing body. Governors agreed that candidates should have the necessary skill set to meet the requirements of SNLP in accordance with its Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation. In addition the appointed Chairs of the LGCs should have the necessary experience and historic knowledge of SNLP.

Governors discussed the number of governors on each LGC and noted that a Chair would be appointed for each LGC.

7. Trust Update and next steps

In advance of the meeting a statement from RC was circulated to governors updating on the current situation regarding finance, operations and staffing.

Governors noted the SNLP financial forecast outturn of £284k for the end of 2016-17.

Governors noted the SNLP forecast a financial deficit of £405k for 2017-18.

Governors noted reasons which contributed to the deficit:

- Education Service Grant (ESG) has ended resulting in £146k less funding for 2017-18.
- The number of students had reduced by 26 in the Sixth Form for 2017-18.
- Income stream is £220k less but we have the same costs.

RC highlighted that SNLP is responsible for all 2,500 students in 2017-18.

Governors considered staff roles and need for optimising staff levels to ensure that Longsands is in financial balance and that Ernulf shows a true reflection of the actual costs to operate. Governors noted that whilst financial costs are controlled, the level of staffing should ensure that behaviour does not deteriorate and the quality of learning and teaching results in the required outcomes.

Governors questioned how much financial support was needed to support revenue expenditure at Ernulf for 2017-18.

RC informed governors that £750k was required for 2017-18.

Governors questioned whether the LA have the financial resources to support Ernulf revenue and capital expenditure

KW informed governors that the LA have a legal responsibility for school places in Cambridgeshire but have limited finance available for academies which is not readily available. Capital expenditure funds school buildings and classroom spaces. Revenue expenditure is received once students are in place.

Governors were informed that the Head of Bedford Free School has resigned.

Governors questioned what affect the Bedford Free School may have on provision for school places in St Neots.

KW responded to say that this is out of SNLP control and the effect is unknown.

RC informed governors that the LA have reported that there is not a capacity issue at present but SNLP need to consider plans to accommodate capacity in the future with St Neots expanding.

Signature of Chair..... Date.....

Governors discussed implications for Ernulf in the event of poor exam results for 2016-17.

Governors considered the need for continuity for all SNLP students transition from Year 10 to Year 11.

**Governors voted unanimously to deliver the curriculum in the same order for all GCSE subjects at Longsands and Ernulf in 2017-18.
RC to inform necessary parties to implement.**

RC

RC explained to governors that SNLP must make efficiency savings wherever possible across the trust and whilst in the past have made significant savings, further cost efficiency savings are necessary.

Governors reviewed the SNLP leadership structure in its entirety.
Governors reviewed cost efficiency savings in support staff roles giving possible savings of £100k at Ernulf from 2017-18.

Governors considered the necessity of leadership and support staff posts, roles and costs with a view of SNLP amalgamation.

Governors questioned whether the £750k required funding included these savings.
RC informed governors that the above efficiency savings have already been taken into account in the budget and £750k does include these savings.

**Governors unanimously agreed to implement the efficiency savings presented.
RC to discuss with key staff and make necessary arrangements.**

RC

11. Date of future meetings:

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as LGC Ernulf 20 June, LGC Longsands 22 June, Finance and Resources 28 June, FGB 12 July 2017.

Clerk to arrange a follow up Trust Board meeting for next week.

MJB

12. Any other Business

Governors noted that SNLP has been in contact with local primary schools to discuss joining SNLP as part of a MAT.

There were no other items of any other business.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm