

## **BEST Annual General Meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 14:00 – 15:00

SWA, Block 20, Room 914

**Attendees:** Ilona Bond (IB), Alan Lee (AL), David Shelvey (DS), Paul Walker (PW), Carolyn Devereux (CD), Tony Sanderson (TS), Ian Morfett (IM), Martin Petts (MP), Craig Smith (CS) and Nafia Baust (NB)

**Apologies:** Peter Little and Claire Mycock

**Minute taker:** Yvonne Humphryes (YH)

**Notification of any perceived conflicts of interest:** None

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Members Minutes (19.9.18) approved and signed

All Members present signed the 2018-19 Members' register.

All attendees completed the BEST GDPR consent form and given to YH as Clerk to Trustees.

### **AGM**

#### **Feedback from the Chair of the Finance Committee – Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

DS commended NB and her team on the smooth running of the 2017/18 audit.

No issues were identified and it was concluded that the funds had all been used appropriately.

Cash flow is good. There are adequate resources to continue as a Multi Academy Trust. Reserves are aimed at £750K – this year £773K has been achieved; last year reserves were £645K. IM commended achieving the agreed reserves balance.

PFI at SWA is a risk, this cost of which goes up each year in line with the RPI and will soon be at £1,000,000. There are 17/18 years left on the PFI agreement. IM asked whether the PFI restrictions cause any problems; DS advised that it is a large and increasing annual debt.

Questions were raised around why the number of teaching staff at BEST had reduced and yet staffing costs had increased. This is a combination of salary increase in line with DfE recommendations and the fact the St Christophers Academy joined the Trust on September 2018 – the accounts now include their staffing costs.

#### **CEO update**

AL advised that staffing costs are currently at 83%, the aim is to reduce this to approx. 75%. A Curriculum Consultant has been commissioned to review the curriculum which should in turn reduce staffing costs.

AL said that Ofsted are focusing on richness of curriculum; the curriculum must be broad and have depth, but it also has to be balanced in terms of delivering high progress data and being affordable.

CD said that she feels it's important to the schools values/ethos to ensure there is a curriculum available to pupils of all abilities and feels that progress is relative to each individual pupil. AL agreed, noting that Progress 8 is intended to measure such.

Lawnside Lower School will be joining BEST on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The Pix Brook temporary build will be opened in a purpose built building on the Etonbury site in September 2019; the permanent build will be completed 2020. The Pix Brook Academy Principal has been appointed, Stephen Adams. BEST have held in Open evening, following which a strategy has been implemented to improve communications regarding Pix Brook in the community.

### Financial Accounts

All Trustees and Members confirmed that BEST is not involved in any Fraud.

All Trustees and Members confirmed that BEST is not involved in any litigation cases.

All Trustees and Members confirmed that BEST is compliant with relevant laws and regulations.

The figures within the accounts have been finalised. **Decision:** All Trustees and Members voted to adopt/accept the accounts.

**Action:** YH to upload the individual accounts (BEST, Charity and Nurseries) onto Governor Hub.

J. Bond 23/11/19

**Next AGM meeting:** December 2019