



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W Hermon
Chair of Trust Board: S Tavener

11/10/2023

Minutes
An Daras Multi-Academy Trust Members
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 1.30pm at ADMAT Central Office

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Steve Tavener, Chris Marshall, Margaret Young

Apologies: Eden, Askel Veur

In Attendance: Will Hermon (CEO), Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

As per the Articles of Association, ST chaired the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests Relevant to this Agenda

None declared. All annual declarations submitted by Members.

3. Approve Previous Minutes from General Meeting (14th March 2023)

No actions. Members agreed the minutes and the Chair signed a copy.

4. New Member

The Members were sent information on a potential new member prior to the meeting. Trudy Rudge who has recently resigned as a Director from the trust board due to work commitments has agreed to become a member. This is considered positive as she knows the trust and understands its vision and ethos.

The Members agreed that she would be a valuable addition to the team. ST, CM and MY signed the special resolution and a signed copy was received from Askel Veur prior to the meeting. Eden Board is due to consider this at a meeting on 18th October when a signed copy of the resolution is expected. However, with over 75% signatures received, the special resolution was passed, and Trudy Rudge was appointed as a member.

5. Confidential Agenda Items

WH updated the Members on trust expansion plans.

6. Appoint External Auditor

Recommendation for external auditor for 2024. It is considered that Francis Clark work well with the trust and it would be useful to keep the same auditor if the trust expansion/transfer goes ahead. If Francis Clark are used in 2024, it will be the 4th year they have been appointed and this falls within the acceptable window of 3-6 years. There are also limited options for external auditors and many of them now only do virtual audits which is not considered beneficial to our ways of working. The Trust Board recommend to the Members to appoint Francis Clark for the 2024 external audit.

The Members agreed and appointed Francis Clark as the external auditors for autumn 2024.

7. **An Daras MAT Strategic Update**

WH noted that 6 schools have had good Ofsted inspections noting that curriculum, safeguarding, staff and pupil well-being are all consistently good. There are three schools left – SC and SSCA any time now and PT likely in 2025. It is predicted that a good grade is achievable.

The Trust was financially overspent last year due to unfunded staff pay increases, rising costs generally and ensuring funds spent on improved provision in schools to ensure successful Ofsted inspections. Importantly, it is about spending money on the children to improve their outcomes and experience, and allow them to thrive – that is what we are here for after all. This year we need to be careful to balance the budget. **How much did the hike in utility prices affect you?** Not as much as it could have, as we bought a 'bundle' at the beginning of the year so the prices didn't change too much for us. Attainment and progress standards were discussed briefly. Overall, at each key stage, attainment was reasonable across the board. The two schools due Ofsted inspection, SC and SSCA, attainment was good and around national average. WH discussed the smaller schools, and how small cohort figures are skewed slightly, and any lower figures can easily be explained. **Is Launceston Pre-school posing a risk to our numbers yet?** Not considered a risk at present as building work is still going on and some children have moved from this school to our schools mid-way through the year.

8. **Any Other Business**

Members school visits - Chris Marshall has visited CG, WHA, PT, LT, SC, SSCA & Woodland Skills Centre and will visit NP and Wer on 6th Dec 23. MY will also join that visit. Members are welcome to visit schools and should they wish to, they should contact TM for a suitable opportunity to do so.

MY noted that in her many community activities, she has had people mention the issue of swimming in Year 5 at WHA. WH explained that by the time children leave Year 6 they have to swim 20m; this is a stipulation of the national curriculum. Aside from this, there is no statutory requirement to take children swimming and it comes with considerable cost. With school years other than Year 6, the parents need to contribute to the swimming as it cannot be funded from the school budget so unless parents contribute, the class cannot be taken swimming. In addition to which, some parents have expressly declared that there is not need for their child to go swimming in school time. Bottom line, there is not enough in the budget to do this activity when it is not mandatory.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Currently planned to hold a general meeting to update members on strategic matters on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 1.30pm at central office but this will be confirmed early in 2024.

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

Margaret Young – Member

Chris Marshall – Member

Eden (represented by Sue Lockwood) – Member

Askel Veur (represented by Mark Lees) – Member

Steve Tavener – Chair Board of Directors & Member

Will Hermon – CEO & Director