



MINUTES OF THE REIGATE LEARNING ALLIANCE MEMBERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 @ 17.30

Members Present: Mr Michael Jones (Chair)
Mr Charles Hardy
Mr Ian Fortune
Ms Cathy Lynch

In attendance: Mr Jon Allen (Governance Professional)
Mr Chris Whelan – Chief Executive Officer/Trustee
Mr Nick Clark – Executive Principal/Co-opted Trustee
Ms Pat Frankland – Trust Chair & Trustee
Mr Spencer Bowen – Trust Vice Chair & Trustee
Mr Stephen Hewes – Trustee
Ms Kate Fulker – Trustee
Mr Farouk Durrani – Trustee

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Governance Professional took the chair for this agenda item and asked Members to appoint a Member to chair the meeting. Members proposed and seconded for Mr Michael Jones to chair the meeting.

2. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Apologies were received from the following trustees - Mr Gerard Weide, Ms Christine Downton and Ms Yvette Robbins.

3. MINUTES

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 17 January 2023 as a correct record of the meeting (Paper 1).

4. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the revised Articles of Memorandum had been approved by the Department of Education and were now fully adopted by the Trust.

The reference in the minutes to having in place a process to appoint the CEO was no longer applicable and it was agreed to remove the paragraph from the minutes.

It was confirmed the College's teaching training programme has been expanded and is a useful source for the recruitment of teachers.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

5. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR – BUZZACOTT

Following the review of the performance of the External Auditor Buzzacott, undertaken by the Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2023

(Paper 2), Members approved the annual appointment of Buzzacott to undertake the audit on the Trust's Financial Statements 2023/24.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements and Year-end Accounts 2022/23 approved by the Trust Board at its meeting on 05 December 2023 were made available to Members for information purposes (Paper 3).

Members noted the financial performance of the Trust confirmed in the audited accounts with the Financial Statements.

Members noted and welcomed the financial position of the Trust remains strong.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRUST

Members noted the current membership of the Trust including Members, Trustees and Local Governing Body Governors (Paper 4).

It was reported Mr John Artis resigned from being a Member as of 01 September 2023. Members and Trustees asked for the minutes to record thanks to John Artis for contributions made. Arrangements are in place to seek a new Member.

The Chair asked for the minutes to record thanks to Mr Richard Stephens for his contributions and service as both trustee and chair of the Finance & Resources Committee over many years following his recent resignation from the Board.

8. COLLEGE/TRUST PERFORMANCE

Members received a report from the CEO summarising performance to date against the ten agreed Strategic Aims and KPIs for the College and Trust (Paper 5).

Members noted and welcomed the good progress made against the College's strategic objectives and KPIs as confirmed in the report.

9. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE

Members received for information purposes the report arising from the external review of governance that was presented and discussed at the Trust Board meeting held 05 December 2023 (Paper 6).

Members noted and welcomed the excellent outcomes arising from the external review and the confirmation received in the report of their being in place effective governance arrangements for the Trust.

10. STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF REIGATE COLLEGE

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Principal on the following topics:

- (i) Government/DfE policy update
- (ii) Partner Schools Expansion

Although both areas appeared on the surface to be related to operational issues, any decisions taken would have a strategic implication and, as a result, needed to be brought to the attention of Members and Trustees.

In terms of Government/DfE policy updates, current proposed curriculum reforms could be subject to either a delay, or complete change, in the event of a new government being elected. As there is no clear strategic direction on government policy at the moment it is difficult to make decisions now. It was agreed the best course of action to take was to keep a watching brief and to await the outcomes of the general election.

At the last AGM Members and Trustees agreed the best strategic option to pursue was to maintain the current status quo with Reigate College as a single entity in the MAT and to continue to monitor the landscape subject to annual review, whilst maintaining the current strategic focus on Partner Schools. The priorities were to keep a watching brief and to consider any options, should they arise, and to keep building and maintaining relationships with external stakeholders and Partner Schools.

Following a discussion arising from the presentation, it was unanimously **AGREED** to retain the strategic option to maintain the current status quo with Reigate College as a single entity in the MAT and to continue to monitor the landscape subject to annual review, whilst maintaining the current strategic focus on Partner Schools.

The Chair thanked Members and Trustees for their contributions.

11. RESOLUTIONS

There were no other resolutions to be considered.

12. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TBC

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____