

Minutes of the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust incorporating
Hereford Sixth Form College, King Edward VI College, Stourbridge
and Worcester Sixth Form College.

Meeting held at Worcester Sixth Form College on 23rd June, 2022

Present: Ken Hopkins (Chair),
Marion Hawkins,
Toby Hooper (vice-chair),
Shirley Tully, Peter Cooper (Executive Principal),
Craig Holden, Daniel Pearce-Higgins

In attendance: Jonathan Godfrey (Clerk to the Trust),
John Hodt, (Chair KEVI LGB),
Gill Slater (Chair Worcester SFC LGB),
Andrea Marshall (MAT Quality improvement Officer)

Chair's Remarks: Ken Hopkins paid tribute to Toby Hooper who is retiring as a Director
and thanked him for his courtesy, clarity and commitment.
In responding, Toby thanked Directors and staff for their support.

1 **Apologies for absence:**

Sheila Boniface, Sallyanne Griffiths (MAT Finance Director),
James Miller (Chair of Hereford SFC LGB)

2. **Declaration of interests and gifts**

None was declared

3. **Minutes of the meeting of 17th March, 2022**

The minutes were approved

4. **Matters arising and outcomes of
action points**

There were no matters arising and no action points.

ACTION

5. Election of vice-chair

Sheila Boniface was unanimously elected.

6. Executive Principal's Report

The report was noted. Peter Cooper gave an update on some additional issues: Rail Strike - 600 out of the 2000 students at HSFC travel to college by train. As this is one of the highest proportions in the sector, he had been asked by SFCA to speak about the impact on students on local and national radio and television. A number of staff and directors had heard the interviews and Peter was complimented on his summary of the issues and his effective statement of the strengths of SFCs which attract students from a wide distance and who rely on public transport.

Industrial Action by teaching staff – the NEU are balloting on strike action. If this happens it will probably be in the autumn.

Assimilation of other academies- discussions are continuing with a local 11-18 and two 11-16 schools. There are governance issues relating to Catholic schools joining the MAT but a form of associate membership is possible. Peter Cooper has visited three MATs which include SFCs. The most effective would appear to be the one comprising a number of schools which consist of more than one of the same age range, allowing both vertical and horizontal sharing of expertise and resources.

Peter Cooper and Andrea Marshall reported on the action points in the Management Team minutes. The MAT virtual college 'Canvas' will be augmented by a complementary system 'Brillder' which is a bank of online resources being offered commercially. The MAT is involved in its development and has been able to access it for £26k for all three colleges. Peter Cooper has been asked to join the Board of the company and this was supported by the MAT directors.

Update on cost of Capital Project at Worcester SFC. Peter Cooper reported on discussions with the project manager. Owing to inflation tender prices are expected to be significantly higher than expected. The DFE grant is £2.1 million The MAT contribution of £385k may need to rise by an additional £600k. It was agreed that given the work was essential and a grant having been secured for the project , additional funding from the MAT should be allocated if necessary.

7. Update from LGBs

The minutes of recent meetings were noted. John Hodt reported that a parent governor at KEVI had resigned so there are 11 in place out of a current total of sixteen.

Gill Slater will be resigning as Chair of WSFC LGB in September. She will be replaced by the current vice-chair, Sean Devlin, currently the safe-guarding lead. As best practice is to separate responsibilities of the Chair and that for safe-guarding WSFC will appoint another governor to this role.

It was agreed that vice-chairs be invited to attend the meetings if the LGB Chair was unavailable.

8. Minutes of Committee Meetings of 9th June, 2022

Audit Committee

Following a report from Marion Hawkins the Minutes and updated Risk register were approved.

Finance and Resources Committee

Shirley Tully summarised the minutes of the meeting. It was noted that all colleges will end the year with an 'outstanding' financial health grade. The three year forecast was projecting significant deficits in years 2 and three but this assumes no growth in numbers, a 5% pay award each year and no increase in ESF rate of funding.

Following discussion the Minutes, the April Finance report, the Financial forecast and MAT budget were approved.

A £4.5 million project significantly to improve the Sports Centre at WSFC has been proposed by the County Council. WSFC will benefit by having sole use of the Sports Hall during the day (currently 1/3 use of existing Sports Hall), athletics facilities would be upgraded at no cost to the College, the Astro turf would be resurfaced as a 3G pitch with 75% of the cost provided by the Football Foundation (our contribution would be £30k), a new gym would be built with a weights facility students could use during the day.

The College's Dance Studio and Gym will be solely used by the college allowing the potential to develop these spaces or change their usage.

The proposal requires granting some college land adjacent to the proposed new hall to provide parking.

Following discussion, it was agreed that to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve this project, subject to confirmation that the land ceded was unlikely to be used by WSFC and that the terms of the transfer should be discussed with our solicitors.

Curriculum and Quality Committee

Following a report from Toby Hooper, the minutes of the meeting were approved.

9.

Board recruitment

It was noted that following Toby Hooper's resignation there would be only six Directors.

It was agreed that new directors should be sought using the free 'Aspiring Governors' service. Jo Payne was asked to prepare a suitable MAT Trustee profile for posting on the site. It was suggested that consideration be given to

accepting Directors who may be outside the region but who could be allowed to attend by zoom if necessary.

10. Annual declaration of interest forms

The Clerk asked for the Annual Declaration of Interest Forms to be returned to him by the end of this term. Hard copies will be posted out with a return envelope.

JTG

11. Calendar of meetings and committee membership

The dates of meetings for next year were noted.

12. MAT Board Conference

It was agreed this would take place on the evening of Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November, 2022 at either HSFC or WFSC.

13. Any other business:

The updated MAT strategic plan showing key developments and outcomes was approved.

Date of Next Meeting: 6th October, 2022 at HSFC

8.

9.

10.



