

**Present:** Mrs L Coyte, Chair  
Ms M McInnes  
Ms C Metters  
Mr C Roach

**Absent:** Mr C Boney  
Mr V Lovell, Headteacher



**In Attendance:** Mrs D Stoneman - Clerk to the Governors

In order to provide evidence of challenge, these questions are highlighted in the minutes.

44. **Welcome**

Mrs Coyte welcomed governors to the meeting.

45. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Boney and Mr Lovell.

46. **Declaration of Business and Pecuniary Interest**

Mrs Metters declared an interest as a member of staff.

47. **Consideration of conversion to academy status and joining the MAT**

a) **Report on Due Diligence from Chair and Head**

Governors acknowledged that a rigorous process had taken place for the Due Diligence. Any queries raised had been addressed during the process which had been open and thorough. Mrs Coyte showed governors the financial spreadsheets prepared for Trewidland School. The data has been verified by accounting technicians and Corestats. The Browne Jacobson invoice is just over £2027 + VAT. **A governor asked who would do the financial reporting in the future.** This would be done by the Central Business Unit (CBU); the structure was explained. It was noted that the changes which have happened in this area in recent years would not happen in future. There is a much higher level of expertise available and improved purchasing resources.

**A governor had raised concerns about pension commitments.** Mrs Coyte advised that she has spoken to Mrs Waghorn, Mr Buckley and Mrs Lumbard (CFO) about this. Mrs Lumbard was unable to give exact amounts but they have modelled that the risk for the entire MAT going forward, taking account of that already known for Looe, Saltash and Landulph, would be no more than £25K. It is felt that this is not a major issue.

A governor felt the question to be asked is whether a thorough Due Diligence exercise has been done from all perspectives. They noted that the pension liability was for the MAT and they had clearly researched this thoroughly and had agreed to take it on.

Mrs Coyte asked those present if this was a sufficient issue for anyone to feel the school should not join the MAT. All present felt it was not.

It was noted that the imminent change in the funding formula is going to apply whether or not the school joins a MAT. The MAT will be able to sell services and generate income which could give financial benefit.

b) **Consultation**

Governors were advised that consultation had taken place. Mr Boney, Mr Lovell, Mr Roach and Mrs Coyte had attended the public meeting at Liskeard.

c) **Impact Assessment**

This had been covered in the Due Diligence. It was noted that the school have already been able to offer additional opportunities for staff and pupils. School Improvement has also been positive. The financial rigour had been commended.

d) **Decision on whether or not to become an academy and join SMART**

Mrs Coyte summarised the current position; she can only see positive outcomes for the school. She asked each individual for their views. The staff governor felt from a staff point of view there are no concerns and it can mean more security; she supports the proposal.

Another governor supports the proposal. Another governor advised that they were cynical at the outset but now feels very positive. Joining a MAT with a small primary school is a positive move. It is important to have an all-through model.

Governors unanimously agreed that Trewidland CP School should become an academy and join South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust.

e) **Conversion documents: Approval and signing of Commercial Transfer Agreements**

It was unanimously agreed that the relevant documents should be signed.

48. **Confirm Dates and Times of Next Meeting**

Full Governors – Wednesday 22nd March at 5.30pm

Governors were thanked for attending; the meeting finished at 7 pm.