



Cheney School Academy Trust – Annual General Meeting

Confirmed Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 21st January at 5:30pm at the school

In the Chair:	Dr Durning
Present:	Mr Stamper, Professor Brighthouse, Mrs Garland, Mr Ewen, Mrs Kirby, Dr Hindley, Ms Childs, Ms Douglas, Mr Czajewski, Ms Masih, Ms Hitchcock
In attendance:	Mrs Berry (Presenting), Mrs Hawken (Acting Head, Bayards Hill Primary School), Miss Flegg (Clerk)

	Minutes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair opened and welcomed everyone to the Cheney School Academy Trust Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Introductions received by all present</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for absence and declaration of interest</p> <p>Apologies were received from Mr Wainwright, Mr Huggins and Mr Field.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received</p>	
	Items for Discussion	
3.	<p>Multi Academy Trust update – Jolie Kirby/Bridget Durning</p> <p>The CEO presented and the following key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 1st October 2014 the Trust was confirmed as the sponsor of Bayards Hill Primary School, where Mrs Hawken is currently seconded as Acting Head. The Trust has recently appointed a permanent Head Teacher for Bayard Hill, Mrs Rachel Medley, who will be starting her role in April 2015. The Governing Body at Bayards Hill has undergone significant restructuring and made a number of new appointments bringing additional expertise to the Governing Body. • The Trust has secured funding for a new science block at Cheney School- a space which will also encompass college and additional Sixth Form space. The Trust has also made a further bid for funding for the demolition of the Wainwright building at Cheney School. Results of this are expected in February 2015. • The Trust has applied to sponsor a new 300 capacity primary school in Barton, and has been shortlisted. The Trust is due to submit the second round of application by 13th February 2015, and expects to hear back from this in March 2015. • In terms of pupil/student attainment Cheney School has secured good rates of progress and is focusing on further progressing the progress of Special 	



	<p>Educational Needs and Pupil Premium students. Progress at Bayards Hill is improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The further opportunities for the Trust to progress were outlined: • Extended opportunities for professional learning to accelerate student progress- Cheney School is currently running a programme for middle leaders with Andy Buck, Managing Director at Academies for United Learning, and similar opportunities are available at Bayards Hill • Role of students as leaders across phase- to be achieved through mentoring and other student leadership roles • Development of the Cheney School Academy Trust as a local Academy Trust- The CEO thanked the Trustees for all their support and challenge and highlighted the implementation by the Trust of very challenging key performance indicators for the schools. • The Chair noted a further clarity over the ethos and values of both Local Governing Bodies as future area for focus. • A Trustee noted the increased strength of academies working together, and highlighted the need for joint visits to outstanding practitioners. The CEO confirmed that this was an important area of future focus. • The Chair thanked the CEO for all her effort and work for the Trust, and thanked Mrs Hawken for all her work at Bayards Hill. • A Trustee questioned whether the Trust had considered potential changes to the Academy system following the next general election. It was felt that the indications were that the academy system would further develop under the next government. • The Chair thanked Mrs Berry for all her work securing funding for the Trust development. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Annual Accounts and Report to Trustees – Sue Berry</p> <p>Mrs Berry presented and highlighted the accounts had been completed and submitted on time, and were confirmed as fully compliant. Mrs Berry noted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total value of the Trust had slightly decreased, only when pension liability was included. It was highlighted, however, that the Government had stressed that this amount would be covered by Government funds. • A Trustee questioned the current reserve level of the school, and asked if these funds were problematic, given that they were not currently in use. Mrs Berry noted that these funds were earmarked for building work, and to manage the funding need that would be created the additional number of students that would be attending Cheney School as of September 2016. Mrs Berry also noted that the surpluses were a result of the school’s management of unrestricted funds, and that the education grant had been spent directly on student/pupils’ education. A Member noted that it was beneficial to maintain some reserves in the short term, while the Trust was new, but that this should be carefully monitored. Mrs Hawken noted that there had been a historic under spend of funds at Bayards Hill, but that these funds had now been invested in the updating of IT systems, staffing and improving classroom settings 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Questions to the Trustees</p> <p>A Trustee noted that it would be beneficial to raise the profile of the AGM, and to have more representation from Bayards Hill present. It was suggested that high profile addresses would help attract a wider attendance. The CEO and Chair agreed to consider how to raise the profile</p>	<p>BD, JKI</p>



	of the event. Meeting closed: 6:10pm	
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