



TRUST BOARD LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Learning Committee of the Trust Board of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust held on Monday 30th October 2023 at 6 pm.

Present	Yes/No	In attendance	Yes/No
Mr J Crisp - Chair	Yes	Mrs K Williams, Clerk to Trust Board	Yes
Mr D Buckley, CEO	Yes		

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declaration of Business or Pecuniary Interest and Academy-related parties - update on any changes since completion of written declaration**

There were no changes to declarations.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

There have been resignations from Miss Adams and Ms Brooks so the membership of the committee is reduced and more Trustees need to be recruited.

4. **Approval of minutes of meeting held on 6th June 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2023 having been circulated in advance, were agreed as an accurate record.

5. **Matters Arising**

M34. Consider the Strategic Risk Register in terms of risks assigned to the

c) Mr Buckley explained that we discuss data with Trustees and Governors and we address the quality of teaching through the SDPs (School Development Plans). Checking for understanding was found to be an issue at Saltash and work on this has been accelerated. Liskeard have identified that attention on learning and reducing distraction is a high priority. We could add in a mitigation by having an additional school improvement lead in the schools although we have put in an extra curriculum day. A Trustee asked if peer reviews are still being undertaken. Mr Buckley advised that we do have peer reviews and this should be added to the Strategic Risk Register.

Update: On this agenda.

6. **Standing agenda item: Risk Register: Progress on any new or emerging risks and risk monitoring'**

A document was circulated in advance of the meeting. From this:

a) Mr Buckley advised that the audit process last year suggested how we should be dealing with risk so the Risk Register has been revised.

b) Mr Buckley advised that all the schools have responded to the risks listed. All schools are required to review all the risks for all the LGC (Local Governing Committee) meetings and they are required to report on any changes to the risks.

c) The Trust Board should be able to review the risks across all the schools more easily and this is a live document. We need to debate which committee owns which risk and it has been suggested that safeguarding should be shared across all three Trust Board committees. It has also been discussed that some risks are not stated properly so may need to be reworded. The new document has been well received by LGCs and Headteachers.

- d) **A Trustee noted that as we have a trust culture, we should have a truer reflection from Headteachers in this document.** Mr Buckley explained that Headteachers have been cautious in some cases but they are able to increase the risks in small amounts.
- e) **A Trustee asked if there are any obvious themes.** Mr Buckley advised that there are no obvious themes and whilst he is aware of all the issues, this document shows that schools have a good understanding of the risks.
- f) Mr Buckley explained that in the audit report, the level of risk of 16 is a major risk so this should be challenged. We are looking to have a full debate in the Trust Board meeting to decide which committee owns each risk. All the LGCs have seen the Risk Register at their last meeting. At the Trust Board meeting, the Risk Register will have been reviewed by LGCs twice. The Risk Register will be a standing agenda item for all meetings.
- g) The deadline for the Risk Register to be in a finalised format was by the first Trust Board meeting so we are working ahead of this deadline. Mr Buckley added that some risks can be reviewed in more in depth once they have been allocated to a committee.

7. **Headteacher's Reports – consider if any areas need a deeper dive in future meetings**

A document was circulated in advance of the meeting. From this:

- a) Mr Buckley advised that the Headteacher report is being discussed at the next TSLT (Trust Senior Leadership Team) meeting to ensure that it contains all the information required.
- b) Any red areas in the Headteachers reports should be challenged by LGCs. Mr Buckley advised that the number of exclusions is significant and it has been highlighted by the People committee who suggested that this data now needs to be included in the report. He added that the Headteachers Report does not gauge how good the quality of education is as it only gives exam results has a bulk indicator.
- c) **A Trustee asked what is the formal observation process.** Mr Buckley advised that there is one formal observation for each school which is a Peer Review but teachers are now having drop ins for feedback every three weeks. We have looked at teaching routines and we are trying to get this to 100% in all the schools but the unscripted elements of teaching are harder to measure.
- d) **A Trustee noted there are issues with attendance at Saltash.** Mr Buckley advised that a high proportion of those who are not attending are from Plymouth and this needs to be unpicked. **A Trustee also highlighted disadvantaged attendance is an issue but suggested that the reasons for this are well known.**
- e) Mr Buckley advised that the Headteachers Report does not show where there could be an issue in a subject until the exam results are known which means that the LGCs are not able to check and challenge this throughout the year and there should be a more robust way of knowing where there are possible gaps. There is currently not really anything on quality of education which LGCs and Trustees can follow up on. Mr Buckley explained that we are trying to grapple with how we understand the quality of education before there is an issue. **A Trustee asked if the Trust Improvement Partner may have any suggestions on how to approach this.** Mr Buckley advised that some Trusts have been heavily focused on the scripted elements of teaching as a measure.
- f) Mr Buckley advised we have completed learning walks the schools which allow us to see transitions and we are collecting data around this but we have not worked out what measure to use for quality of education. We are moving to unannounced observations as we have found a marked difference where teachers have had time to prepare for scheduled observations.
- g) **A Trustee asked how we are approaching celebrating good teaching and sharing best practice.** Mr Buckley advised that we do this well with SMART day but we have overestimated how many teachers have enough experience to use autonomy effectively. The Trusts and schools which have

used a scripted approach are doing better in Ofsted inspections but we aim to learn from this but have higher expectations for unscripted learning in parallel.

- h) **A Trustee noted the importance of not doing something just for Ofsted.** Mr Buckley advised that that our ethos works well until we have a coasting school. **A Trustee asked if this is a culture issue.** Mr Buckley advised that there is an issue if capacity is not built alongside the use of scripting. Read, Write Inc is a scripted approach being used at primary schools to ensure that basics are in place which can then be built on.
- i) **A Trustee asked how do we address delivery and quality of teaching.** Mr Buckley advised that Trusts are using different approaches to this and we need to calibrate what is acceptable.
- j) Mr Buckley advised that we have partnered with Greenshaw as they have a really good approach to scripted systems. **A Trustee asked what is a realistic timescale to change behaviour norms.** Mr Buckley advised that this can be variable but Liskeard had three aims and have managed to complete it in one year.

8. **Review of Policies**

- a) None.

9. **Summary of matters for the Trust Board**

- a) We need to recruit further Trustees to sit on the Learning Committee.
- b) The committee has reviewed the Risk Register and considered how it should be used by schools and Local Governing Committees.
- c) The Headteachers Reports have been discussed and it is evident that we need to find a measure of quality of teaching which can then be used to challenge by the LGCs and Trustees.

10. **Agreements made by email**

- a) None.

11. **Date of next meetings**

06-02-2024 and 04-06-2024 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.