

**MINUTES OF THE 106<sup>th</sup> FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON  
TUESDAY 05 JULY 2022 AT 16.30**

**Present:** Dick Whitcutt (DW) - Chair, Richard Perry (RJP), Douglas Mitchell (DMI), Angela Entwistle (AEE) (DMI), Kevin Chamberlain (KC)

**In Attendance:** Jane Kiddell (JKD) (Minutes)

**Start Time: 16:30**

**1. Apologies for absence**

The only absentees were Rachel Brannagan (RB) and Tony Bothwell (TB) Stewart Harris (SH) was also unable to attend as observer/trustee.

**2. Declaration of interest**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of Last meeting**

DW asked if RJP would be updating the FRC concerning the IT Storage facility and RJP confirmed that this would be covered within his report.

DW referred to the approval of the price estimate for the delayed lift repairs at the Academy, which was £27,000 for the first phase (Zone D lift) and £30,000 for each of Zones C and E in subsequent years and asked if the price remained the same and RJP confirmed that the company have honoured the original cost of the works.

DW referred to the Academy's high staffing costs and RJP confirmed that staffing is higher than the average school as a result of a number of factors, one of which (noted many times before by the Committee but often not obvious externally) being that the Academy employs all its own staff rather than contracting some major ongoing services out.

The previous minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

RJP updated colleagues on the purchase of the RansomCare product and that it had been a worthwhile investment as the Academy had experienced a number of attempts from external sources to infect the IT systems. The software is working effectively and acting as a first line of defence.

The offsite long-term data storage is still being looked at by the Network Department.

RJP shared the Trading subsidiary accounts for information purposes only and there had been no change from the original draft. These had now been signed off and submitted to Companies House.

DW asked where the costs for the rental of Openview appear within the Academy accounts and questioned the way in which the Academy will present these in future accounts, in view of the lack of direct usage in future. RJP advised that while provision exists for a peppercorn rent within the lease for the ground, Wandsworth has never introduced an actual charge since the lease was signed up to.

RJP told the FRC that the Academy had been able to hold further exam revision sessions over the May break for Year 11 and 13 students and although they were cut short by the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, the students' participation in these sessions was very good.

RJP informed the FRC that the Foundation Pension Plan is now closed to active membership. The Trustees for the Plan met last week to discuss the investment strategy going forward, now that it is just made up of both actual and deferred pensioners. Despite recent turmoil in the markets the Plan's assets are now currently quite well aligned to on-going liabilities.

## **5. Openview**

RJP informed the FRC that a meeting had taken place with The Spencer Club and confirmed that a lot of exploration had been carried out to secure other users to be able to make use of the Openview facility. The Thomas's London Day Schools would like to make as much use of the facilities as they can. The forecast income generated from them is anticipated to be around £100K for future usage with current income levels from them being closer to £20k.

The Academy, through the involvement of the Spencer Club, will look for other schools who would like to use the ground in the few gaps that would still be available, whilst still protecting the Academy's lease arrangements.

RJP is confident that the Academy will achieve the rental projected and will be meeting with the Spencer Club and the schools further to cement these for the longer term. DW commented and said that this was most encouraging.

## **6. Capital Developments**

RJP informed the FRC that if in future all sporting activities and sports days take place on-site, at the Academy, then ATA will need to upgrade its outdoor facilities. RJP said that the outline costs for development were brought to the FRC last year, although nothing will go ahead this summer. The work is something that will need to be agreed for next summer. FRC approval is needed for costs to upgrade these facilities.

The Spencer Club would be interested in using the facility, should it be developed, and they would be interested in becoming a readymade hirer for weekends, which is positive. RJP will provide more clarification for the next meeting.

DW and RJP thanked KC for his input in looking at the figures as well as the rationale with RJP and DMI.

## **7. Revenue Funding 2021-2022 Update**

RJP updated the FRC with regards to Wandsworth's service for producing the Academy's payroll. RJP confirmed that it is working satisfactorily and, despite some minor complications, the move was certainly the right thing to do, both because of the increasing complexities of pay and pension arrangements in general, but also by having a team of people responsible for making these payments as opposed to just one.

The Academy has received some additional funding termed the Supplementary Grant, which will cover the increase in National insurance costs but will also cover 'wider costs', for example the increase in energy costs. In the current year the Academy has £108K and then is due a further £260k next year after which it is due to be subsumed within the core funding provision. RJP confirmed that as at 31 May 2022 the Academy has spent £8.25 million of the year's funds (78% of the estimated total income due for the year) and similar to that of the year before. The original deficit estimate for the year of £800k was now expected to be some 25% lower.

RJP talked about the strong focus that had taken place on finding efficiencies in the staffing structure at the Academy and where this had been possible. This included within the Sixth Form Management Team where a restructure had taken place for the new academic year. In addition, a member of the administration team would move to a three-day week from their current five days. This would be for one year only, with a view to this post possibly becoming superfluous.

## **8. Revenue Funding 2022-2023**

RJP discussed the funding projection, indicated by the Education and Funding Skills Agency, for next year, which provides a healthier picture for ATA based on maximising student numbers and ensuring vacancies in the lower years were filled prior to the submission of census figures in the autumn. Unfilled spaces in Year 7 at the time of the previous census had impacted the Academy quite negatively in the current year.

Over the past three months, time has been spent securing staff for next year; RJP has completed the staffing estimates for next year and the timetable has also been completed. The Academy has a very efficient timetable and the supply of teaching will be 2855 periods next year compared to 2897 this year. The Academy has saved 42 teaching periods despite having more students. That means teaching numbers have been calculated on 95.4 full time equivalent staff against 97 this year.

There will also be three fewer associate staff (subject to SEN requirements) next year compared to this year. The combination of increased funding and reduced staffing will reduce the percentage of income spent on staffing from close on 89% to around 85%.

The figures have incorporated likely national pay awards that will happen but they are still in negotiation. RJP explained the details about the government's proposal for teaching staff to the FRC.

## **9. Academy Trust Benchmarking Report 2022**

RJP shared the report produced by the Academy's auditors with the FRC and gave a brief summary of the key points. He asked colleagues to read through this and he would be happy to answer any questions that they had.

## **10. Policy Updates**


RJP asked the FRC to read a number of updated policies and asked if colleagues would provide any feedback before adoption.

1. Internal Financial Procedures Manual.
2. Staff Attendance Reward Scheme.
3. Code of Conduct for Adults Working with Students

DW asked if the Code of Conduct should be raised at the Executive Board, RJP commented that this could be taken to next meeting once any further comments from the FRC had been taken into account.

**12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business and DW thanked colleagues for attending and for their continued support.

Signed:   
Richard Whitcutt Chair of Finance and Resource Committee

Date: 11/10 2022