

MINUTES OF CELT TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2023 10.30 am
ATLANTIC CENTRE & VIRTUAL

In Attendance:

Geoff Brown (GB); Jane Nicholls (JN); John Simeons (JS); Sebastian Parker (SP); Sean Dixon (SD); Jo Connolly (JC); Mark Lees (ML)

Also In Attendance:

Lisa Mannall (LM); Clare Ridehalgh, Deputy Trust Lead (CR); Claire Carter (CC); Governance Professional (CC); Tracy Cartmel, Chief Finance Officer (TC); Christie Saunders (CS); Governance Administrator

Item	<p>Welcome, Apologies & Declaration of Pecuniary Interests GB thanked everyone for attending the Members meeting held prior to this. There were no apologies.</p>	Action by:
1.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising from Minutes were agreed and signed as accurate. There were no matters arising from the minute.</p>	
2.	<p>Safeguarding – Standing Item Amy Daniels joined the meeting. Reports were provided prior to the meeting. GB expressed concern as to high percentage of current national mental health issues. AD informed the meeting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% is strong compared with another local trust. • Primary mental health leads meet half day per week. • Resilience building is being delivered in one school in groups and 1:1. • There is a very strong relationship with CAMHS, they are listening and being proactive. • Families are under huge pressures and dealing with poverty. • Violence is more significant for parents with PPNs (Police Protection Notice) and anti-social domestic violence increasing. <p>JS Do the numbers include any double counting for PPN and other categories. AD If a case of domestic incident it will be. The next data capture will be based on the number of children. ML Is this spread across the trust or more generalised. AD Bodmin is the highest followed by St Austell. Newquay is the lowest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident that PHSE is in line with statutory curriculum and contextual element. Data informed that this is moving forward. <p>Action: ML requested that this is considered at QA for monitoring at LGB level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 33 cases within the Trust, 39 child protection plans which are relatively low. Our schools are not reflecting this picture. 	CC

	<p>JS Thanked AD for the huge amount of input and information provided and improving practices. GB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training is being provided for the wider DSL team who are working relentlessly. • Work is being completed on Child on Child abuse, linking with the Local Authority • In a secondary school staff are constantly striving to hear pupils' voices. • AD will be working with Lee Moscato, Truro Diocese in January. 	
	<i>AD and JC left the meeting</i>	
3.	<p>Finances</p> <p>GB we have received a thorough quarterly report with a deep dive into finance. JS the finance team are very good at paying invoices, may be getting too good. Comparisons with other trust are very good. The information on per pupil sums are very interesting.</p> <p>TC A huge amount of work has been highlighted for next year. It may not be possible to get all schools balancing by sign off next year. Work is being done on this already with meetings being held with Headteachers. We may have deficits as we did last year.</p> <p>CR Work is being implemented including looking at restructuring at some schools. Under 10 staff involved Chair of Finance can sign off, over 10 will require discussion as Full Board.</p> <p>ML <i>Who scrutinises central?</i></p> <p>LM School Improvement review central with a weekly secondary panel who look at impact now, next year and the whole structure.</p> <p>CR The Trust is collectively resourcing, working together and evidence the panel demonstrating and understanding.</p> <p>ML This has been evident and seen in action at Bodmin College.</p> <p>SD <i>Even as a going concern can we push back against external concerns</i></p> <p>CR JS has previously written a comprehensive letter to ESFA. CR and TC will be meeting with ESFA and DfE next week regarding accessible funding.</p> <p>Agreed: The Trustees agreed that the Trust continues to be a going concern for the next 12 months.</p>	
4.	<p>Complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brannel complaint is due to be heard at a court hearing – CR has reached out and has re-established a good relationship with parents and is hopeful that some issues can be rectified without prejudice. • Brannel have significantly more complaints • Poltair DDT is one family involving three children. • When the Trust are informed or consulted, we can ensure the correct processes are followed 	
	<p>Trust Lead Report</p> <p>5.1 Introducing Cradle-to-Career</p> <p>SD <i>Claire Bunting, Head of Mount Charles is leading this, which is of concern as Mount Charles School is not progressing, is she the right person for the role?</i></p>	

	<p>LM CB is the right person to head up Cradle to Career. An HMI inspector has been appointed to Mount Charles to ascertain why there has been no improvement. If it was financially viable a permanent person would be appointed to lead Cradle to Career.</p> <p>5.2 Fowey Primary School Ofsted report</p> <p>GB and SD had met with the Ofsted Inspector who had agreed that if they had visited next year, when processes were in place, the result would have been different.</p> <p>LM explained that if the inspection had been one day the school would have retained Good. Leadership and Management was deemed good, and they were impressed with the Headteacher. As the inspection was over two days, working on a different framework which was more intense, the judgement of RI was correct from the evidence seen.</p> <p>SD Fowey has improved from a low place. What happened with Year 5 & 6 predates CELT. How can we be in this position with Reception and Year 1 whilst the RIG has been in place, are the people on the RIG the right people?</p> <p>LM Year 1 teacher is seconded from Carclaze School they are an outstanding teacher. Reception and Year 1 had to be taught as one class, the teacher is not an EYFS teacher, finances drove this decision. Subject Leaders did not discuss their subjects in EYFS. David Masters, Trust EYFS Lead taught the EYFS, this was brilliant. Unfortunately, DM will be leaving the Trust at the end of term, which will be a huge loss. The Headteacher has only been in post since September and is doing a good job.</p> <p>5.3 CELT Strategic Plan March 2023</p> <p>The report was circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Meetings of committees</p> <p>6.1 Quality Assurance – SD</p> <p>The Trust is only as strong as the weakest school. We have learnt a lot from Fowey where we didn't pick up early enough that Fowey wasn't good. Mount Charles is a red flag as they are failing to progress, this is a worry. It is reassuring that it is being dealt with as a Trust. There is concern that the Trust take on any further failing schools.</p> <p>LM The Trust presented a case to Penair School who are in a good financial position and seen as a capacity giver. The Trust are not looking at taking on any RI schools.</p> <p>6.2 Finance, Staffing and Remuneration – JS</p> <p>Finance covered this morning at Members meeting with Accountants. There is some restructuring taking place with a business case being implemented for Bodmin and Newquay Tretherras 6th Form.</p> <p>LM The 6th Forms will be run as one organisation and will require one Head. HR are currently working through the process for which there are two candidates.</p> <p>6.3 Audit & Risk – JS</p> <p>Very minor points highlighted by auditors today. Concern was expressed regarding the comment noted regarding assets.</p>	

	<p>CR The asset is land which is held in public trust. The Trust knows what it is and it has no impact on the day to day processes. The auditors are trying to meet specific requirements which would cost the Trust £30k to implement. If the Sector Lead changes the regulations, the Trust will ask the DfE to fund it.</p> <p>6.4 Estates, IT & Climate – SP A very good meeting was held last week. The Estates team are really good at what they do. There has been a massive improvement at Bodmin College, and the electric contract has been reduced from 20k per month to 10k as the contract was cancelled and renegotiated as a new business customer. The same procedure is being taken for the gas contract.</p>	
	LM left the meeting at 10.48	
	<p>6.4 continued GB A tremendous amount of work has been completed in transforming Pondhu School following the deluge of water. SP There will be a massive amount of refurbishment completed from the insurance. CR Wain Homes have accepted liability. A total of two Olympic size swimming pools of water cascaded through the school. The Trusts focus is getting the pupils back in school, which is likely to be Easter due to all fire doors being compromised, there is a huge programme of work to be undertaken. SD suggested that Wain Homes provide a goodwill contribution to the school of waterproof play equipment as the wooden play equipment was now unusable. ML How are the staff coping, they must be devastated? CR Two staff are working with Pondhu pupils at Carclaze and five at Mount Charles. The staff are getting exhausted working with Years 2 and 5 in modular buildings. Children are attending CDC, who need to be at a specialist unit, at a cost of 2k to the insurers. The Trust are providing the best provision they currently can. CR will approach the Managing Director of Wain Homes at the appropriate time for some goodwill gesture to staff.</p>	
7.	<p>External Review of Governance CC and GB to meet to write an Action Plan from the outcomes of the external review of governance. ML volunteered his support in writing the action plan. The completed report to be presented to Finance, Staffing and Remuneration.</p>	
8	<p>Any other Business 8.1 Primary Admissions Policy 2025-2026 A consultation notification and policy has been published on the Port Isaac's website. The policy has been placed on the Trust website and all primary/junior school websites. 8.2 Secondary Admissions Policy A consultation notification and policy has been published on Bodmin College website. The policy has been placed on the Trust website and all secondary school websites. Link Trustees report Bodmin College – ML ML attended an informal meeting with interim leaders who are doing a very good job. The college felt safe, behaviour was orderly with the main focus on behaviour in lessons. There will be a change at Christmas with Samantha Fairbairn as Head of</p>	

	<p>Campus. There are very clear weaknesses and some appalling areas in school including the sensory garden.</p> <p>CR The building is of 60's construction which has not been maintained. The College is part of the second round of 'Building for Schools' to make a better place to learn in. The College is a high priority on the capital list. There is no RAAC at Bodmin. Coreus is completing a feasibility report at Bodmin where there should be some quick wins.</p> <p>Newquay Junior – SD The school is on track and doing well.</p> <p>Lostwithiel – JN Lostwithiel is a good school, the governing body are very positive of the input and support from CELT.</p> <p>Newquay Tretherras – SP The LGB met last night, it was a good meeting. Gemma Harries has taken on the post of Headteacher. Lisa Verity is a good chair, encouraging the governors to complete visits and report back.</p> <p>Poltair – JS Poltair has moved to an LGB now and with new members it will grow and mature.</p> <p>Penrice – JS Due to the snow the LGB meeting was cancelled. CR stated that she sits on the LGB, and they are functioning well. Penrice are now in the Ofsted window and is a very good school.</p> <p>Port Isaac – GB PI is a work in progress. The Headteacher now at PI is an established Headteacher who is currently dealing with staffing issues including an assortment of contracts.</p> <p>Pondhu – GB Staff have benefitted from the new Headteacher. Leadership and Management have been really appreciated.</p> <p>Luxulyan – JN JN not able to attend the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Date, Time and Venue of next meeting 18th March 2024 5 pm at St Austell Office, Poltair School</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 11.10 am</p>	
	<p>The above minutes were approved and agreed as a true record.</p> <p>Signed _____ Dated _____ Chairperson</p>	