



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W. T. Hermon

19/06/2024

Minutes

Finance, Resources & Staffing Committee 2 - Summer 2024 Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 9.30am at central office

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Jon Sharpe, Peter Hague, Claire Paul, Ian Wilkinson, Will Hermon, Gill Shippides

Present on Zoom: Steve Tavener

In Attendance: Emma Gilbert (CFO), Jo Callow (Ex Officio), Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

2. **Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests relevant to this Agenda**

None declared relevant to this agenda.

3. **Minutes of previous FRS Spring (15th May 2024) and matters arising**

- **Consider use of capital spending to reduced expenditure elsewhere (WH/EG).** Ongoing, minibus has been purchased and ovens are being purchased for some schools, to save on oven maintenance costs going forward. **Action: update at Autumn meeting (EG)**
- **Amend yearly meeting planner to include FRS 1 and FRS 2 every summer term (TM).** *Done*

Committee agreed to the minutes and JS signed a copy.

4. **Confidential Agenda Items**

Matters from item 8 were discussed at confidential minutes.

5. **Transfer Matters**

WH noted an issue identified with the Coads Green funding agreement, stemming from the previous transfer, regarding to age range of the pre-school. This has now been rectified and will require a directors signature.

6. **MAT Improvement Plan**

WH noted the need to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum and operation of the schools, including reducing the carbon footprint. There is a working party that is mapping out ways to do this, and there are external resources available to the trust to help with this. The Diocese are also working hard on this matter and SC is undergoing a pilot programme with the Diocese of Truro.

7. **Review Current Finance**

a. **Income and Expenditure Against Planned Budget**

Latest management accounts were made available to the committee. EG discussed the carried forward reserves, and the latest budgets to end of March 24, showing at a loss of £234,603.57. There is some income due in and some of the additional expenditure has been around the transfer. Around £166K of the deficit of staff salary was not budgeted in the first place and £30K

are PSF charges. Once grants of around £150K have been received, it will still be a shortfall of around £80K.

It was noted that the initial budgeting was based on pupil numbers and the rolls are falling, which is also a national issue. Town schools KS1 classes should be 30 but now only around 18-20 pupils at all 3 town schools from September. The budgets for next year will have to account for smaller numbers. **We need to be careful how we do this though, as it is unfair for the original andaras schools to be cut back because of 'Duchy school' finances are not balanced; there needs to be an element of protection.** This was discussed. **Is it possible to get a grant from elsewhere to cover the deficit?** Some potential options were discussed and will be investigated, GS offered to assist with this.

b. Measure Budget Against Financial KPIs

Discussed above.

c. Virements and other transactions in accordance with the MAT Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation

None.

d. Approval of Expenditure of Sums over agreed Financial Regulations

None.

8. Review/Discuss Balanced Budget for Financial Year

This was discussed and minuted at the confidential minutes.

9. Review 3-year Budget Return

In draft at this stage, will be finalised for the full Board. Although it was noted that budgeting for one year out is hard enough, trying to do it for 3 years out is extremely difficult when you factor in potential for pupil number fluctuations, unfunded pay rises, the continuing shortfall of SEND funding, possible change in focus on whichever party wins the election and so on.

10. Agree Final Staffing Structure

Schools with falling rolls will have staffing structure reviewed in line with the budget work at item 8. Key principles were agreed by the committee.

11. Review Christian Foundation Delivery

Checked against articles of association, Funding agreements, Church Supplementary agreements and Diocesan Agreements. No issues identified and continuing with collaborative work with both Diocese where required, and it was agreed there is a good working relationship. The curriculum continues to embed good values, and there are no issues of concern with regards to SIAMS at SC or LT.

12. Performance Management

Governance Officer – current objectives due to be complete in July 24. Will review with WH in early Sep 24.

Date has been set (end Nov 24) for CEO/EHT performance management with Chair & External Advisor. ST will brief directors at full Board in Dec 24.

13. Premises & Infrastructure

Heating work and the fire system work at SSCA has been completed, checked and funding recovered. Some CIF bids have been submitted but not awarded; a couple were a few points away from success and so these have been tweaked and appealed. SSCA safeguarding related bid for fencing was approved previously but it has taken time to get planning permission; this has recently been

received so this work will start imminently. In the near future, SC, LT and PT fire precautions will be updated. Exceptions report for H&S was provided to the committee and WH briefly discussed a few matters.

14. Policy Review

No policies for review, however, WH sought feedback on the Business Continuity Plan that is due for review at Autumn next term; this will need some input regarding the new schools.

15. AOB

None.

16. DONM

Next meeting will be Weds 2nd Oct 2024 at the central office.

Meeting closed at 10.45am

TJH Martin
Governance Officer

Distribution List:

J. Sharpe – Director (Chair)
S. Tavener – Director (Vice)
P. Hague – Director
C. Paul – Director
I. Wilkinson – Director
G. Shipsides – Director
W. Hermon – CEO Director
E. Gilbert – CFO
J. Callow – Ex Officio Observer