

Avanti Schools Trust (AST)

Meeting Title:	South West Hub Governance Board 01	
Date:	Monday 25 th November 2019	
Time:	11:00 – 13:00	
Location:	Avanti Gardens School, Bristol	
Documentation:	AST Terms of Reference South West Governance Board Summary of responses to the significant change proposal for Avanti Park School (former Steiner Academy Frome) Summary of responses to the significant change proposal for Avanti Gardens School (former Steiner Academy Bristol) Summary of responses to the significant change proposal for Avanti Hall School (former Steiner Academy Exeter) Parent letter regarding the Steiner Schools' curriculum	
Attendees:	Dr Molly Warrington (MW) (Chair) Fran Russell (FR) Nitesh Gor, CEO (NG) Joanne Hatfield, HR Director (JH) Bhavini Budhdev, Finance Lead (BB)	Stephen Howe (SH) Mike Ions, Director of Education (MI) Suzanne Flack (SF) Andrew Quayle (AQ) Beth Souster (Minute Taker) (BS)

Colour Key: Red: Questions

Blue: Decisions

Purple: Action

Item No:	Agenda Item	Led By:
1	Welcome, Introductions and apologies Attendees introduced themselves	MW
2	Declarations of interest SF – Declared: Sue Rogers who is currently supporting at Avanti Park School in Frome is Deputy CEO for The Redstart Learning Partnership (TRLP) BS from TRLP is minute taker for the meeting today	MW
3	Proposed Terms of Reference (TofR) The TofR document was referred to in detail (current TofR are being used in the interim) An agreement is required at the full board meeting in December Q - Are you expecting any feedback from the Trust? A - Chair of the trust board has been involved in the process, so there is no expectation but there could be Q - What would the alternative be if governance continued as a stakeholder committee rather than moving to the hub model? A – Geography is the main focus, the need to support the location of the schools and the faith aspect. This is an interim measure until school stakeholder committees can be established	MW

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	<p>A discussion took place on the need to move away from the stakeholder committees to a hub model. In the current climate this will ensure coherence, scrutiny, flexibility and allow for focused and challenging governance</p> <p>A concern was raised about the capacity in relation to the expectations of duties of the hub board</p> <p>The intention is to expand the hub board to increase capacity</p> <p>No other comments were raised</p>	
4	<p>Panels of the SW Hub Board</p> <p>Details were given on the plans to expand the hub board panels</p> <p>The suggestion was made to offer reciprocal support arrangements for other panels to increase capacity</p> <p>Q - How much flexibility is there in arranging panels, can these be grouped together? A – It depends on the nature of the exclusion and the statutory guidance</p> <p>Q – What are the plans for the appointments panel? A – Appointments panels will be required for school Principals and above</p>	MW
5	<p>Update on the legal transfer</p> <p>The transfers took place on the 1st November 2019</p> <p>All three Steiner Academies have changed their names:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avanti Park School (former Steiner Academy, Frome) 2. Avanti Gardens School (former Steiner Academy, Bristol) 3. Avanti Hall School (former Steiner Academy, Exeter) <p>Details on the transfer process were delivered to the hub board</p> <p>There was one challenge with regards to the TUPE process in relation to the consultation with Trade Unions. A clause has been considered and a financial agreement has been arranged with the DfE if a claim is made in the first 3 months. The hub board will be advised if a claim is made. All details are in the legal transfer document.</p> <p>Q – Have the sponsored schools received new URNs? A – Yes, all have been allocated</p>	NG & MI
6	<p>Update on TUPE process and partial restructure CONFIDENTIAL ITEM</p>	JH
7	<p>Update on pupil numbers and finances</p> <p>Pupil numbers: Bristol – from forecast to census a decline of 40 and a further decline post transfer of 36 – total 76 Frome - from forecast to census a decline of 18 and a further decline post transfer of 15 – total 23 Exeter - from forecast to census a decline of 25 and an increase post transfer of 15 – total 18</p>	BB

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	<p>Finances: Currently Business Managers and the Finance Director are working together to look at individual school budgets. Some school controls have been put in place.</p> <p>New trust finance systems are being implemented. In May 2020 the previous trust accounts will close and the funds will be transferred</p> <p>SIF bids and Schools Condition funding was discussed</p> <p>Q – Is the drop in pupil numbers related to a particular year group? A – No, it appears to be spread across year groups</p> <p>Hub board members had a discussion on the decrease in pupil numbers and the potential reasons why!</p> <p>Q - Is it due to the changing curriculum? A – Particularly for Bristol it is related to the school moving in a direction that has less support</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the TofR and the finance responsibility being excluded for the hub board. If the hub board are to have certain responsibilities they will need to know about the financial aspects</p> <p>ACTION – Amendments to the hub board TofR to receive updates on pupil numbers and finances</p> <p>Pupil numbers will be closely monitored and regular reports will be presented</p> <p>Q – Will the curriculum review in particular for Exeter and Frome impact further on pupil numbers? A – This will be closely monitored</p> <p>Q – Are SIF bids likely to go to schools with falling roles, what is the priority? A – Working with an expert consultant to address and support applications in critical areas</p> <p><u>Special Note:</u> MI- Thanked BB and JH. They have managed the process for the three schools exceptionally well and thanked them for the work they have done.</p>	
8	<p>Significant change applications</p> <p>Detailed the three significant change papers and the process involved.</p> <p>The hub board are required to approve the applications in preparation for the full board on 9th December. The full board can prepare a formal application to RSC office in preparation for the HTB, likely to be in January for a September 2020, start with the exception of Exeter which will be 1 year later</p> <p>NOTE: For Admissions separate papers will be provided at a future meeting</p> <p><u>Avanti Hall, Exeter</u></p> <p>For financial sustainability, a 3 form is more sustainable</p> <p>MI –A robust business case will be presented in due course</p>	MI



	<p>Q – Was it ever viable as a 2 form entry, what has changed? A – It was felt unlikely that a two form entry school would be approved today</p> <p><u>Avanti Gardens, Bristol</u></p> <p>Particular reference was made to the costs in KS3 & 4</p> <p>The hub board recognise the changes families have made to come to a Steiner Academy and the impact these changes will have on the families involved</p> <p>The increase in PAN to 60 was supported.</p> <p>The change could allow for a move to a three or four form Primary entry</p> <p><u>Avanti Park, Frome</u></p> <p>It was noted that pupils in years 10 and 11 will continue at the school to complete their GCSEs. The hub board discussed the implications for year 9 students and this was noted.</p> <p>Q - Is Frome college the only alternative? A - In the town yes, but there are other options</p> <p><u>Timescales for announcements:</u> Stakeholders will be informed this week NG, Mike Younger (Chair of the full board) and MI will offer to meet the parents This will be presented to the full board on December 9th A full business case will be prepared and formal applications will be made in January 2020</p> <p>DECISION: All three significant change applications were approved. The hub board recommends the changes to the full board for the following schools: 1: Avanti Hall – Agreed 2: Avanti Gardens – Agreed 3: Avanti Park - Agreed</p> <p>NOTE: Consider the parents carefully and deal with this sensitively</p>	
9	<p>Curriculum Review</p> <p>Refer to: Parent letter regarding the Steiner Schools’ curriculum</p> <p>MI – Introduced the review of the South West Steiner schools’ curriculum</p> <p>Q – What are the timescales for the review? A – Initial review meeting in 2 weeks-time, followed by visits to the schools, workshops with staff and parents, followed by the construction the curriculum</p> <p>The hub board discussed the plans, implications and impact of the review</p> <p>Q – What is being done to improve education and the curriculum in the interim? A – Avanti are currently working on this and are looking at priorities.</p> <p>Q - Will this be presented to the hub or board? A – It will come to the hub board first before going to the full trust board</p> <p>Hub board members to arrange visits to the schools</p>	MI



10	Standing Item: Items for AOB N/A	
11	Date of Next Meeting Monday 16 th December 10:30 at Avanti Hall in Exeter	
12	Meeting Close MW thanked all for their attendance and contributions and thanked BS for taking the minutes Meeting closed at 13:02pm	

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