

Minutes
Trust Board Meeting
Wednesday, 17th December 2025 at 5pm
Yewdale PS Conference Room, Yewdale Primary School

Present:	Lorrayne Hughes, OBE, Chief Executive (LH)
	Catherine Reeves, Co-opted Trustee (CR)
	Brian Webster-Henderson, OBE (BWH)
	Dr Bill Snaith, Trustee (DBS) (via Teams)
	Matt Hood, OBE, Trustee (MH) (via Teams)
	Sandra Keaveney, Trustee (SK) (via Teams)
	Jeff O'Neill, Co-opted Trustee (JON)
Together with:	Margaret Payne, Trustee (Interim Chair) (MP)
	Ray Olive, Trustee (RO)
	Sally McAllister, Head of Operations (SMcA)
	Jonny Coates, CFFO (JC)
	Matt Butler, Director of Primary Improvement & Professional Development (MB)
	Des Bird, Director of Secondary Improvement (DB)
	Tom Martell, Director of Strategy & Operations (TM)
Apologies:	Gill Martin, Director of Finance (GM)
	Kerry Rogerson, HR Manager (KR)
	Lucy Hewson, Clerk to Trust Board (LMH)
	Gill Creighton, Head of Safeguarding (GC)
	George Beveridge, Chair (GB)
	Sue Newstead, Director of Learning Provision (SN)
	Richard Berry, Trustee (RB)
Minutes taken by	Lucy M Hewson
Quorum required	3
Members present	9

Member support, questions and challenge in red

Responses in green

Actions in bold

		Action	By Who?
1	Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from GB, RB and SN. CE update LH said it had been a busy and productive term. There is a huge national change agenda at present including the Ofsted framework and Curriculum & Assessment review. We are still awaiting the release of the White paper including the SEND reform. CET have already done much preparation on the new Ofsted framework and new self-evaluation forms for schools. In 2023 CET won a bid for the first free school for alternative provision in Cumberland, which we were delighted with. This programme of work has been paused by the Government. Of the 44 mainstream free schools in the pipeline, 16 will proceed and 28 projects may be cancelled including the CET project. The LA has the funding pot to		

	Trustee feels assured by Safeguarding practices for CET. Trustee asked about the level of resources for the increased demands for safeguarding. Are there any other areas of concern? GC said cascading the learning from any courses is important. CET now has inhouse training to deliver Safeguarding levels 2 and 3. This will also be an extra income stream as CET can deliver this training externally. When other areas of concern arise, we can look at putting more resources into different areas. GC left the meeting at 17:31.		
4	Committee updates a) Update from Organisational Development Committee: Please see minutes for the update. b) Update from Inspection Workshop At the last Inspection workshop in October, DB gave an update on the new Inspection framework. The workshop was well attended by Trustees and LAB Chairs from schools coming into the Ofsted inspection window. The differences from the old Ofsted framework were covered and how schools are approaching the new Self-evaluation reports. There was an update from Mrs Carroll, Longtown PS Head on the practical changes and case sampling. There was also an update from SN on inclusion – this is a huge part of the framework with its own section and weaved into all other sections. TM covered leadership and governance. A confidential item was discussed. c) Update from Audit and Risk Committee – see minutes. JON thanked GM and UNW for all their work. d) Update from LAB meetings – Secondary and Primary Secondary – DB updated on Secondary LAB meetings of which he attended all. They were all quorate with strong engagement. Academic outcomes from the summer were one of the main agenda items. There was challenge at some meetings on the disadvantaged and SEND results. In some of the schools, boys outperformed girls in the summer exams. Attendance and behaviour are positive (on or above national average). There is a 15-20% drop in suspensions across the schools. SEND reports were approved. There are increasing numbers of students who have an EHCP across the sector (for example, WA has over 80 students who have an EHCP which is much higher than few years ago). The actions needed following Martyn’s law were updated in the Policies item. Re Finance, there is a positive picture re outturns from previous academic year. It was a very pleasing and positive round of Secondary LAB meetings. Primary – MB updated on Primary LAB meetings. The Primary LAB meetings were more effective in this round of meetings than the last round. One area of concern is a lack of Chair for Longtown and Stramongate LABs. However, since the beginning of the academic year 10 new LAB members have been recruited which is positive. There is still work to do with gaps in LAB membership. All LAB members (apart from Stramongate LAB) have visited school for triangulation visits. We continue to challenge ourselves to deliver strong Primary governance. Petheril Bank and Castle Park LABs are particularly strong. Trustee said it was good to hear about the upturn on LAB recruitment following the discussion at the last July Trust Board meeting. He asked how this had been achieved. MB said parents are often the first audience to go to. e) Governance Councils – SMcA outlined a new approach for 2026 (see paper). Decision: Approved.		

	Trustee said this was a really helpful overview. Challenge: What is not working well and what are the risks. TM said the biggest challenges are capacity to deliver the projects. Trustee thanked TM. LH said this will be brought to the Trust Board planning session in the Spring on how we develop this moving forward.		
9	Governance SMcA updated on the Governance paper. To note, in Chair's absence, LH is lead on Safeguarding for the Trust Board. Note: JON stepping down as Trustee at the end of this academic year. His second term of office ends in July 2026 rather than the further 4 years stated in the paper.		
10	Growth LH gave an update on growth. CET have been working with Norman Street School, a large primary in Carlisle, for a year. A resolution has been passed that they would like to join CET. It is a great school made up of 300 pupils. Trustees will be updated once due diligence has been completed. CET has good engagement with Westmorland & Furness Council with a whole range of projects. There will be thought towards capacity before CET moves forward with further growth. CET is supporting Hayden Bridge School through RISE – supported by DB and WHS and others in the Trust.		
11	AOB None. Decision: Reserves Policy sent separately for approval via MS form.		

The meeting closed at 18:39

Signed by: Margaret P. Payne Date: 18.3.26
 Margaret Payne, Chair of Trust Board (Interim)

Date of Trust Board meeting: Wednesday, 18th March 2026 from 5pm, Yewdale Primary School Conference Room, Carlisle