

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2017 – 2 PM to 4.30 PM

## UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

### Present:

Richard Thomas	Independent Chair of CSIB; Educational Consultant
Dave Barron	Fenland TSA
Di Beddow	Unions
Lesley Birch	Histon and Impington Junior School; TSC
Susannah Connell	Diamond TSA
Penny Conway	Little Paxton Primary School; GAG Member; NLG
Steve Dann	Post-16
Cllr Peter Downes	Cambs County Councillor
Kate Evans	Anglian Gateway TSA
Keith Grimwade	Director of Learning, Cambs County Council
John Hartley	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers
Ysanne Heald	TEEM Education; CEYTS
Jonathan Lewis	RSC
Helen Manley	Senior Adviser Curriculum Teaching and Leadership, Cambs County Council
Joe McCrossan	Roman Catholic Diocese
Nina Redhead	Wisbech Schools Partnership
Suzie Young	The Kite TSA
<i>Julia Baddeley</i>	<i>Business Support Assistant, Learning Directorate (minutes)</i>

### 1. **Welcome and apologies**

RT welcomed Board members to the meeting and apologies were received from: Tamara Allen, Rachel Beeson, Donna Cornwell, Geoff Hayward, Helena Marsh, Jacki Parris, Simon Pratt-Adams, Andrew Read, Rosemarie Sadler, Rachel Snape and Cllr Joan Whitehead.

### 2. **Minutes of the previous meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with no amendments.

### 3. **Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda**

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

### Action

## CSIB Action Plan Update on Progress

RT said that the current plan is due to end in April 2017 and that it was therefore time for the Board to review it and consider how to move forward/refocus. He referred to the Board's five priorities and said that he viewed the CSIB as an effective model; however, there is concern about communication with headteacher organisations and ownership by schools.

### 4. Future of CSIB, action plan and priorities

RT said that RSC has new central funding for School Improvement and mentioned the DfE's Teaching, Innovation and Leadership Fund, bidding for which should happen mid-April; the application process is not clear at the moment. In addition, the CSIB has its own resources of £190,000 which, together with the aforementioned additional funding opportunities, needs to be used effectively. SEN Peer Review results also need to be considered and RT highlighted the need for ensuring that the various RSC and LA plans mesh together. He proposed that the reassessment of the Action Plan should be the main agenda item for the next CSIB meeting.

RT/KG

Bidding for TILF funding, will need to take place before the next CSIB meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> May). RT said that he could draft a bid (primary, secondary and early years). Suffolk are proposing to work with nationally recognised partners who are happy to be part of a bid and this model could be used for Cambridgeshire. HM has a list to facilitate identification of schools (RI schools would be targeted). Format of bid has not been released as yet. Agreed RT/KG/JL would work together to formulate a bid.

HM

RT/KG/JL

HM mentioned that CMAT are also bidding for NPQH National College funding for licences to deliver the new programmes, schools will still need to pay for the training.

### 5 Priority 1

- i. Update on progress in Primaries and support from LA and
- iv. Ofsted update

Rosemarie Sadler was not present but had provided RT with an analysis of Ofsted inspections for the current academic year which was tabled and discussed. Cambridgeshire is below regional and national averages but with an upwards trend. In terms of performance tables it was recommended that Cambridgeshire should aim to be above the national and East of England average scores. RT said that the next plan would need to support primary and secondary phases (maintained and academy schools) to secure improvement. KG said that the achievement of vulnerable groups (priority 2) was the reason for RI schools failing to get to Good and

KG/

should therefore be the focus. Rosemarie to clarify her statement that 'primary schools currently graded Outstanding, which the Schools Intervention Team agrees with, are shown to be Good'.

R Sadler

ii. Update from School to School support meeting

LB said that there was to be a relaunch of SLEs and she alerted the Board to the designation of SLEs in May. She also briefed the Board on funding allocations to specific schools within the various TSAs to aid school improvement. She said that it was necessary to target schools and some bids were refused if funding was secured from other sources.

All

LB updated the Board regarding an NPQ bid to support school improvement by using the workforce of teaching schools across the East, practitioners training trainers, schools supporting schools.

Regarding the provision of ITT, LB said that HM, as chair of the ITT Network (Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Suffolk), had more information regarding allocations, lobbying, etc. LB expressed concern regarding the lack of overview regarding number of places and graduates not being attracted to the teaching profession.

A trailblazer group representing schools is writing a set of standards (one set covering primary and secondary) for the new teacher apprenticeships (for September 2018?); allocation and capping issues are yet to be determined. Regarding pathways, LB said that HM favours flexibility and members of the board were encouraged to take part in the survey which will shortly be circulated.

HM/All

Internship programme for primaries has just finished its first year and HM and others (including STEM) are interviewing for non-supported schools week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March. Teaching remains a graduate profession but Third Class degrees are accepted. HM said that the University of Bedfordshire offer a degree aimed at TAs.

KG said that the Board has a resource and should consider using it to make a difference in critical areas. JL said that RSC would be willing to listen to specific issues affecting Cambridgeshire and possibly try new ideas in the Eastern region. HM said that incentives such as provision of driving lessons for Fenland should be relayed to DfE policy makers.

All

LB concluded by drawing the board's attention to the Teaching Schools Newsletter and website and mention was made of Sir David Carter's visit to Histon and Impington Junior and Cottenham primaries schools where mention was made of the big three areas of focus: Leadership and Management, School to School Support and

ITT. Linking of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was seen as a strength.

iii. Updates from Secondary Sector

JH mentioned that Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers were against selection (no dissents) and had sent a letter to the Secretary of State to this effect. Cllr Downes said that this was of interest and would be relayed to full council as his motion that the County Council was against selective education in Cambridgeshire had been defeated by a coalition of Conservative and UKIP members. The importance of clarifying the meaning of 'local consent' within the proposals was discussed. JL to send a copy of the letter to Cllr Downes if CSH agrees.

Cllr PD/

JL

National Funding Formula – a letter has been written to Justine Greening outlining the historic underfunding for Cambridgeshire and the fact that a third of schools will be losing funding under the current proposals. Under the new formula, for four secondary schools, 95 per cent of the AWPU formula is taken up with basic costs. The AWPU allocation is not seen as sufficient for ordinary schools and would therefore be inadequate for high needs schools. Local MPs are sympathetic and changes to the proposals are felt to be likely.

Pupil Premium money going to Rachel de Souza Inspiration Trust schools was mentioned and there is a Unions meeting week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March with CSH Chair, Jonathan Digby, to discuss county proposals.

JL said that Wave 3 free school applications will be considered after Easter and that selection will only take place where a school is full.

JMc asked if there was a forum for open discussion of free schools. KG said that the LA has a private and confidential list of applications; open dialogue could take place within CPH and CSH but the LA's position would need to be respected. List of schools should be available in the near future.

JH said that Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads' conference is on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

6. **Priority 2**

i. Follow up from SEND review meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017

HM mentioned that a SEND local area inspection was due to take place in county week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March. The inspection team

will be talking to schools, parents, focus groups, etc and will also cover health service (CPFT) aspects.

HM said that the SEND review meeting had been along the lines of a practice Ofsted covering Essex, Norfolk and Central Bedfordshire. She highlighted the key issues and the key recommendations in her PowerPoint presentation (to be circulated with the minutes). There is a draft Action Plan and members of the Board were asked to consider volunteering for a cross-phase (all schools, including Post-16) working party; parent representation was also required. Those interested in participating should email HM ([helen.manley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.manley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)). RT said that SEND and the related draft Action Plan should be a standing item on CSIB agendas. HM will change the date of the first meeting of the working party (originally scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> April) and email the board with the new date.

All

RT

HM

ii. SEAS4All in Cambridgeshire

SY represented RS/Kite TSA and relayed RS's notes on the Schools as Learning Communities in Europe: Successful Educational Actions for all project. Reference was made to the various project partners (UK and International), funding for sharing practice, training and conference materials has been secured and there is Erasmus involvement. SY will forward a link to the Blog. Representatives are meeting 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March at The Spinney and Faculty of Education. The event is supported by CREDS, The Kite TSA and the CSIB. There is an open event at CPDC on 16<sup>th</sup> March with tickets available; keynote speaker is Professor Ramon Flecha. RT asked SY to consider an action plan for the next CSIB meeting.

SY

SY

7. **Priority 3**

- i Leadership Development
- ii. Progress of NPQ bids
- iii. Teaching and Leadership innovation fund

Middle leadership work is taking place (Ambition School Leadership) and there are a number of prospective participants. The aim is to retain the middle leadership layer. Funding for the current year is underwritten by the board and the request for next year is £20,000 for primary phase. The board was reluctant to approve continued funding without evidence of impact and competition with teaching schools was mentioned. RT to ask headteachers for evidence of impact in their schools, whether the work was value for money.

RT

Regarding the teaching schools' offer to schools, SY will take this to the CPD group with a view to doing a proposal to the board.

SY

## 8. RSC update

- JL's presentation referred to systems-led school improvement to lever school-to-school support work. He said that more NLEs and system leaders are needed generally and good providers need to be identified.
- One hundred and forty million is to be made available nationally for school improvement in academies and maintained schools and £20 million additional money is available over the next two years for evidence-based best practice.
- Delivery will be on a regional basis, there will be five sub-regional groups (all London boroughs, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). RSC will chair the groups. Teaching schools, local authorities, diocese and other partners will have a say around relative priorities to make a difference. JL thought it would be useful to have an Ofsted representative on the group together with representatives of heads' associations and the diocese so that there would be one plan which would be known to all sectors.
- DB voiced concerns regarding workload impact on teachers and favoured a streamlined approach.
- Teaching schools will be responsible for commissioning/ brokering support and for evaluation. Bidding can be at any level – regional, local authority, groups of schools etc. The focus of bids should be on what will make a difference to children in our area. Once approved, money will transfer rapidly.
- Terms of reference are being drafted at present and more information should be available at the end of March. Details will not be finalised until the end of April and the first bidding round will be funded in July. Groups will meet six times a year and provide a holistic view of schools in their area. The first meeting will be a joint meeting at the end of May.
- There was discussion around rationalizing the number of groups. KG said that following the mayoral election in May, more details would be known regarding the new Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He quoted from paragraph 35 of the devolution deal: one of the devolution responsibilities is to establish an education board for the combined authority and consideration of the number of groups will take place thereafter.
- KG reminded the group that CSIB covers additional aspects (Member representation, legacy funding, SEAS4ALL, Cambridgeshire Culture); he suggested that perhaps CSIB could have representation on the sub-regional group.
- It was thought appropriate for a Peterborough representative to be present at the next Cambridgeshire CSIB meeting.
- Opportunity areas creating local partnerships were also mentioned and LB said there was a need to make decisions; no allocation at present to our area. HM said teacher recruitment will be a key priority and CFA Interim Executive Director, Wendi

RT

HM

<p>Ogle-Welbourn, will be attending a forthcoming Opportunity area event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JL's presentation will be emailed with the minutes.</li> </ul>	JL
<p><b>9. CSIB Communication Strategy</b></p>	
<p>HM tabled a distribution list for CSIB and asked all members to check their entry. She also tabled a cluster document and again asked members to check names for their cluster.</p>	All
<p>HM voiced concerns regarding the mechanism for two-way communication between groups and CSIB. She suggested items for CSIB consideration could be a standing item on the agenda for CPH.</p>	
<p>RT mentioned that the sequence of meetings was relevant and it was decided that chairs would meet to create a calendar for the various meetings; SC (for CPH) will liaise with JH and Jonathan Digby (for CSH).</p>	SC
<p>RT to include aligning dates and diaries on the agenda for the next CSIB meeting.</p>	RT
<p>HM said that Nottinghamshire School Improvement Board website was exemplary and included a Twitter account. She asked the board to consider commissioning and funding a similar website.</p>	
<p>RT to include reviewing the website on the agenda for the next CSIB meeting.</p>	RT
<p><b>10. Strategic Review of LA Education Services</b></p>	
<p>KG referred to the proposal for an education board for the combined authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and said that JL's presentation highlighted real opportunities for joint working with Peterborough and that joint working opportunities with Northamptonshire and Rutland were also being presented.</p>	
<p>With the Government dropping the Academies Bill, there will be a mixed academy and maintained establishment list for longer than originally thought. There will be joint working, e.g. joint letters between the LA and the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p>	
<p>The wider review of education in local authorities is on hold pending the Education white paper. JL anticipates this will be available in June and KG said he will respond when it is available. The combined authority is exploring options regarding sharing services where of benefit to both authorities and decisions such as combining education authorities will be examined in May after the election.</p>	

11. **Festival of Education**

SY represented RS/Kite TSA and relayed RS's notes (these will be circulated with the minutes). There is a steering group; Norfolk and Norwich Festival Bridge will be involved and GH will represent the Faculty of Education. The board was asked to save the **date for the Festival: 1<sup>st</sup> July**. There are five themes. Regarding funding for the event, RT asked that SY pass on the board's request for the submission of a bid via email as soon as possible.

All

SY/  
R Snape

12. **Any other business**

No further items were discussed.

**Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Board will be **2.00 pm – 4.30 pm on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – please note that the venue for this meeting will be **Cambridge Professional Development Centre, Foster Road, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9NL**.

NB: When available, presentations will be found at this link on the CSIB section of the [Learn Together Cambridgeshire](#) website.