



**SOUTHFIELDS ACADEMY  
MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Held on**

**Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 6.00pm**

**Present:**

Jonathan Clatworthy, Trustee  
Donna Collins, Support Staff Trustee  
Susan Hayday, Academy Chair  
Tara Minto, Teacher Staff Trustee  
John Moore, Trustee  
Annabelle Myers, Trustee  
Verity Pillinger-Cork, Trustee  
Jacqueline Valin, Principal  
Heather Williamson-Cole, Vice Chair and Parent Trustee

**In Attendance:**

Stephen Elson, Director of Finance (Minutes)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Charlene Ellis, Jessica Pearce, Victoria Simpson, Mark Heathcote and Wanda Golinska. These apologies were accepted.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Trustees were asked to declare any personal or pecuniary interests relating to the agenda items for this meeting. No new interests were declared.

**3. Application for Multi Academy Trust Status**

Jackie introduced and explained the paperwork that she had produced around Multi Academy status. She explained that the movement from LA schools and standalone academies to a network of Multi Academy Trusts (MAT) is government policy and is supported by the Schools Commissioner and Wandsworth Borough Council.

Jackie outlined Southfields's recent movement to academy status and its role as a teaching school and a support for other schools.

Jackie explained that Southfields has been encouraged to become a MAT by the Regional Schools Commissioner. She does not expect any changes to the way that Southfields Academy works and she does not expect any changes to staff.

Because (MAT status is expected for) all academies will be expected to join a MAT, Jackie believes that it is right that Southfields leads a MAT rather than risk being forced into joining another MAT. Joining another MAT could put at risk the inclusive ethos of Southfields and could even force selection.

Jackie praised the strength of the current Full Trustee Board and said that she felt that it was in a good position to form a MAT. She expects the Southfields MAT to be a "mixed economy" with a mix of secondary, primary and special schools. It would be planned as a small MAT which would involve up to ten schools. The most important aspect would be that the inclusive ethos is present in any school that wished to join the MAT.

Jackie outlined advantages from MAT status:

- Succession planning for staff and career development
- Enhanced professional development from working across schools
- Financial economies of scale
- School improvement shared across schools

Jackie also outlined potential problems from staying as a standalone academy:

- Southfields risks becoming isolated and insular
- The new national funding formula may bring financial issues across London

Finally Jackie explained the proposed governance structure for the Southfields MAT and told trustees that she had already identified a potential member from within the local authority.

Susan then opened the meeting to questions from trustees:

Tessa asked who would approach who when schools joined the MAT? Jackie replied that she would inform local primary schools that the Southfields MAT is being established. The Regional Schools Commissioner may also approach the MAT with suggested schools. All schools wishing to join the MAT would go through a thorough process of due diligence. The MAT trustee board would have the final decision on any school joining the MAT.

Jonathan asked what qualifies Southfields Academy to lead a MAT? Jackie replied that SA has ten years' experience in supporting schools and is a well-run successful school. Jonathan then asked if the school needs to be rated as outstanding by Ofsted but it does not.

John asked whether staff and parents should be consulted before the application is made? Jackie replied that she has discussed the application fully with senior staff and wanted to get agreement from trustees before further discussions.

Verity asked whether local primary schools might be having the same discussions about setting up their own MATs? Jackie replied that she did expect the Regional Schools Commissioner to give permission for primary schools to be able to set up

MATs unless they could prove that they were sustainable. Jackie also reiterated that she would not want the Southfields MAT to become too large.

Heather asked about the ethos of the proposed MAT and whether there was a danger that it could become stereotyped? Jackie replied that she thought that other MATs would "cherry-pick" the schools that they wanted but that the Southfields ethos is always to support the "forgotten half". Special schools in particular could be rejected by other MATs.

Jackie said that MATs can access more charitable funding once they are established.

Susan then asked about the proposed governance structure. Jackie explained the model and also that it would remain broadly the same until schools began to join the MAT. There is a need to have three members who will have a role overseeing the MAT. The role of member is still a matter of discussion and Jackie is going to seek job descriptions from other MATs.

Jackie does not believe that trustee recruitment will be a problem in the future and said that Southfields has always attracted high quality trustees in the past.

Susan asked how long the process of converting to a MAT is likely to take. Jackie replied that she thought that it could happen before Christmas as the Regional Commissioner is keen to take our application forward.

Susan then called for a vote. All of the trustees present voted in favour of the proposal for Southfields Academy to seek Multi Academy Trust status. Wanda Golinska had already voted in favour by proxy.

Jackie thanked the trustees for their support.

Susan reminded trustees of the training session scheduled for 12 October 2016.

**4. Any other urgent business**

There were no urgent items of business for discussion.

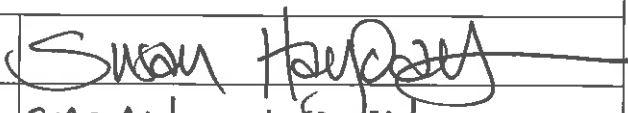
**5. Confidential Items of Business**

There were no confidential items of business for discussion.

**6. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was noted as 6pm on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting	
Chair's signature	
Chair's name	SUSAN HAYDAY

Date

7th December 2016