



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF
M20 LEARNING TRUST
HELD IN SCHOOL
ON
25th March 2025
COMPANY NUMBER 08698831.**

Trustees Present:

David Allan (DA) Chair
Karen Walkden. (KW)
Kate Dean (KD)
David Kennedy-Pitt (DK-P)
David Cundy. (DC)
Pauline Black (PB). via video link joined at 6:06pm

Apologies: Mark O'Keefe (MO'K)

Also in attendance:	Alison Knowlson	Governance Professional
	Liz Hardy	CEO
	Tina Smith	CFOO M20 Learning Trust

The meeting was quorate and commenced at 5:08pm.

PART ONE – NON-CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

1	<p><u>INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting, noting this is the penultimate meeting before the end of M20 Trust</p> <p>There were apologies from Mark O'Keefe, which the trustees accepted.</p>
2	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and AOB</u></p> <p>Trustees were asked to declare any potential pecuniary or conflicts of interest that may occur during the course of the meeting.</p> <p>The following conflicts of interest were declared by DK-P.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. He cannot participate in any discussions or vote on issues related to BNY or its subs/affiliates.

	<p>2. DK-P cannot vote on or make recommendations about any specific individual managers, funds or securities.</p> <p>3. His advice should be limited to macro decisions about investment strategy, such as asset allocation and types of investments the portfolio should invest in.</p> <p>4. He must report any situations where he has received material, non-public information to BNY Compliance.</p> <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was nothing raised for the end of the meeting.</p>
3	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></p> <p>LGB Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Foster had previously stepped down from the Governing board due to ill health but has now confirmed her return following improved health and renewed interest after Ofsted. • Mark McElwee also expressed interest in joining but will defer as Emma resumes her role. • The relationship with Parrs Wood is positive and the MOU has been renewed.
4	<p><u>PART ONE MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the M20 Learning Trust held on 10th December 2023 were recorded as Part Two. There were no Part One minutes to agree.</p>
5	<p><u>CHAIR'S ACTION</u></p> <p>There have been no Chair's actions since the last full Trust Board meeting.</p>
6	<p><u>PART ONE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>FOAR Committee –11th March 2025 verbal report.</p> <p>Mark O'Keefe (chair) was not present at the meeting; TS will give a re-cap in the Financial Matters agenda item 7.</p>
7	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FOAR Trustees are reviewing a section on the Risk Register, ready for the amalgamation. TS will meet individually with the trustees to align the Risk Register. • TS is going to custom the Kreston Benchmarking to reflect the trust and the five schools within it and use the KPIs in her reporting. • The Period 5 Monthly Management accounts were in the backing papers. • The budget was updated with new funding and staff changes resulting in a £70k surplus. • The budget will be reviewed and updated at Period 7.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £200k has been invested in a 1-year fixed fund and £10k test deposit in a 95-day account (3.75% interest), with plans to increase to £100k. • Pupil numbers to be shown graphically in the Management reports to track trends. • Plans to centralise trust banking structure to allow cash flow management across schools. <p>Q: Will we see a total value at year-end from investments? R: Yes, the plan is to track interest and use for significant items benefiting the schools/trust.</p> <p>Q: How do we use the Risk register to prioritise activities? R: The Risk register is used to inform internal audits, especially during the trust amalgamation. The Risk register can become an invaluable decision-making tool.</p>
8	<p><u>PART ONE CEO'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING.</u></p> <p>The CEO reported on the following:</p> <p>Ofsted Report The trustees discussed the Ofsted Report and feedback on Beaver Road achieving Outstanding in all areas during the inspection on the 26th and 27th November 2024. It has been well received by the parents and community.</p> <p>The Board then discussed the new Ofsted Inspection framework, due to be in operation from September 2025 and the controversy around the new Report cards.</p> <p>Q: How will we handle questions from other schools about reaching Outstanding? R: New framework means 'Outstanding' will not look the same, the focus will remain on best practice and not inspection outcomes alone.</p> <p>Strategic Plan The Trust Strategic Plan has not yet been updated due to impending trust changes.</p> <p>SEND Positive SEND-focused visit from Debbie Bailey, when the report is completed, it will be shared with trustees.</p> <p>Partnership Updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership with Martenscroft is under review, having previously operated on a year-by-year agreement. • Due to trust changing to the Connect Alliance Trust, the current partnership model is no longer viable. • LH has a meeting scheduled with Amy to explore a revised partnership agreement, including suitable costing and top slice arrangements, noting Martenscroft cannot benefit financially in the same way as other schools in the Trust. • A presentation will be made to Martenscroft's governing body on 3rd July at 2pm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board discussed the value of having Trustee representation at this meeting to support the partnership discussion and answer governance-related queries. <p>Attendance and Exclusion</p> <p>Attendance remains a key school priority; overall attendance figures (95.8%) reflect the positive impact of current approaches at Beaver Road, but unauthorised absences for holiday taken in term time persists.</p> <p>The focus this year is on improving attendance amongst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged pupils • Pupils who are persistently absent <p>Particular attention is being given to Year 4, where several cases have been identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One pupil in Year 4 has had to be suspended twice for violent incidents; a multi-agency approach is underway. <p>Demographics</p> <p>The Board noted the increase in non-White British (53.3%) and EAL (30.5%) pupils attending the school. Many of the pupils are from the Britannia Hotel re-entering the system. There is a focus on EAL support via leadership, and parental classes.</p> <p>Consultation and Parental Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parent consultation meetings were positive. • Some initial scepticism was addressed through clear communication of the new trust intentions, ethos and values. • Parents reassured that individual school identity will be preserved under the CAT structure. • The consultation finished on the 24th March 2025.
9	<p><u>SCHOOL POLICIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission Arrangements consulted and will be set for the next 5 years. • Appraisal Policy – no change • Pension Discretions • Staff Absence Management • Staff Disciplinary new policy • Staff Flexible working – updated to reflect new legislation • Staff Grievance • Staff Leave of Absence • Staff Paternity • Staff Shared Parental Leave

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustees Training Policy agreed <p>The trustees have read, understood, and approved the above policies.</p> <p>Trustees discussed the AI policy, cyber security training; the phishing exercises in place and the trial of using Google Gemini.</p>
10	<p><u>HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES FOR 2025-26</u></p> <p>The dates have been reviewed and agreed by the LGB and were ratified by the Trust Board.</p> <p>The school is following Manchester City Council term dates.</p>
11	<p><u>TRUSTEES TRAINING</u></p> <p>The Board discussed the Training Policy for trustees, and the need for Safeguarding training at the beginning of the academic year, (this year it will be face-to-face). That there is a mix of self-directed learning on the NGA and a group training given by an outside provider or an away day with the Executive team.</p>
12	<p><u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>The following meeting dates are:</p> <p>M20 Trust Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15th July 2025 <p>M20 School Improvement and Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd June 2025 <p>FOAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13th May 2025 8st July 2025 <p>The Board discussed the CAT Board upcoming meeting and away day.</p>
14	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>There was nothing raised at the start of the meeting to discuss in AOB.</p>

The meeting moved to Part Two.

.....Chair

.....Dated