

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Board of Directors Minutes

Date:	21.04.2026	Venue:	Teams - Online
--------------	------------	---------------	----------------

Minute Taker:	Jac Robilliard	Chair:	Sian Jenkins
----------------------	----------------	---------------	--------------

Start	17.45	End:	18:30
--------------	-------	-------------	-------

Directors in Attendance	Initials	Category	Agenda
Sian Jenkins	SJ	Foundation Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Reflection 2. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies 3. Minutes 4. Matters Arising 5. Policies 6. Trust Update 7. Safeguarding Update 8. Term Dates 9. Items brought forward 10. Date of next meeting
David Chaplin	DC	Foundation Director	
Leo Mackenzie	LM	Foundation Director	
Absent/Apologies			
Matthew Shanks	MS	Foundation Director	
Also Present			
Mark Blackman	MB	Trust Lead	
Jo Evans	JE	Trust Support	
Jac Robilliard	JR	Trust Business Manager	

Item	Minutes
1.	Opening Reflections
2.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies LM welcomed the Directors and explained that she would be Chairing the meeting today. Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Shanks
3.	Minutes The Minutes of 10.02.2026 & 24.02.2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting. LM had raised some minor amendments which had been rectified. <div> Decision The Minutes were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. </div>
4.	Matters Arising Approval of financial transactions from the previous meeting on 31 March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveyors engagements for UCS bids St Helens Fire safety 3540 Clawton fire safety 3540 Dolton and Clinton survey for fire compartmentation £1000 Dolton Structural roof survey £1100 LAP procured grounds maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grounds maintenance work for LAP schools £25k in total Clawton £8,200 Dolton = £835 Clinton = £6,880 St Helens = £8,825 Bampton air source heat pump pool works. - £6000 covered by donation MB talked through the transactions. <div> Decision The financial transactions were unanimously approved. </div>
5	Policies Policies considered:



- Disciplinary
- Redundancy
- Code of Conduct
- Complaints

Discussion:

- Concern raised regarding the Redundancy Policy, particularly whether it is fully fit for purpose in an academy trust context.
- Noted that:
 - The policy originates from Devon County Council and has been adapted for academies.
 - Legal and prior usage indicates it is workable when interpreted appropriately.
- Directors agreed it is important to formally record concerns about applicability of adapted policies.

Decisions:

All four policies approved.

Actions:

- Clerk: Record concern regarding redundancy policy applicability in the minutes.
- Board/Leadership: Keep policy usability under review in practice.

6 **Trust Update**

Local School Committee Appointment

A request for a further three-year term of office for an existing Local School Committee member was presented.

Decision

The Board approved the appointment.

School Improvement

The Board noted that responsibility for school improvement activity had transferred to ACE and LAP.

Trustees received updated school evaluation reports.

Challenge

Trustees asked:



- Whether the evaluations had been shared with schools.
- Why some schools had self-evaluated as "Expected" rather than "Strong".
- Whether outcomes reflected declining standards or more rigorous self-evaluation.

MB explained that:

- Reports had been produced to provide assurance to Trustees.
- Schools and Trust partners had completed evaluations differently depending upon governance arrangements.
- Schools were benchmarking against stronger Trust expectations.
- Honest self-evaluation was considered preferable to overly optimistic judgements.

The Board agreed that the reports demonstrated:

- significant work remaining in several schools;
- evidence that improvement activity was beginning to have impact.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit – Clinton CE Primary School

Trustees received verbal feedback following the recent Ofsted monitoring inspection.

The monitoring inspection concluded that:

- the school is taking effective action towards removal from Special Measures;
- safeguarding remains effective;
- improvements were evident in leadership, phonics, early reading and behaviour.

Positive feedback had been received from staff and parents regarding the Acting Headteacher.

Assurance

Trustees welcomed the positive inspection outcome and thanked:

- The acting Head Teacher;
- LAP colleagues;
- School staff.

The Board recognised significant progress whilst acknowledging substantial work remains.

Estates Update

MB updated Trustees on estates matters.

Urgent works continue across the Trust including:

- fire safety surveys;
- roof repairs;
- swimming pool works;
- capital bid preparation.

Support from ACE and LAP estates teams was acknowledged.

No significant capital funding decisions had yet been received from the DfE.



Finance

The Board received assurance that:

- the Trust remains solvent;
- sufficient cash reserves exist;
- the DfE loan could be repaid if required;
- cash flow continues to be closely monitored.

Trustees commended the work undertaken to improve the Trust's financial position.

Trust Transfer

MB provided an update regarding academy transfers.

The current planned transfer date remains 1 September 2026.

Discussion

Trustees discussed:

- ongoing DfE capital funding negotiations;
- risks should funding not be secured;
- possible implications for transfer timescales.

It was acknowledged that:

- LAP transfers were progressing;
- ACE capital discussions remained ongoing;
- larger academy trusts increasingly have greater capacity to absorb schools.

No decisions were required at this stage.

7 Safeguarding Update

No Updates.

8 Term Dates

The Board considered a proposal from Webbers and Burlescombe Primary School to amend its published term dates for 2026/27 to align with those of ACE.

It was noted that:

- The Head Teacher had undertaken consultation with parents.
- Other schools transferring to ACE had not consulted with parents.
- Parents at other schools may already have made childcare and holiday arrangements based on the published dates.

Challenge

Trustees questioned whether all schools should align with ACE to facilitate future transition.



	<p>MB advised that changing published dates at this stage would be disruptive unless schools had undertaken consultation with parents.</p> <div> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Board agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webbers and Burlescombe could adopt the revised term dates. • All other schools would retain their published term dates unless individual consultation supported a change. </div> <div> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the revised term dates for Webbers and Burlescombe - JR. • Retain existing published dates for remaining schools - JR. </div>
9	<p>Items brought forward at the discretion of the Chair</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p>

