

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Board of Directors Minutes



Date:	14.07.2026	Venue:	Teams - Online
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Minute Taker:	Jac Robilliard	Chair:	Sian Jenkins
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Start	17.45	End:	
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Directors in Attendance	Initials	Category	Agenda
David Chaplin	DC	Foundation Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome, Introductions & Apologies Trust Update Confidentiality Reminder Declaration of Business Interests Minutes Matters Arising Policies Operations and Finance Update Safeguarding Update Items brought forward by the Chair Date and time of next meeting
Leo Mackenzie	LM	Foundation Director	
Matthew Shanks	MS	Foundation Director	
Sian Jenkins	SJ	Foundation Director	
Absent/Apologies			
Su Carey	SC	Coopted Director	
Mark Blackman	MB	Trust Lead	
Also Present			
Kevin Goodwin	KG	CFO	
Jac Robilliard	JR	Trust Business Manager	
Nick Hind	NH	ACE CEO (Incoming) ACE Update only	



Item	Minutes
1.	<p data-bbox="229 322 750 353">Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p data-bbox="229 394 1458 470">The Chair welcomed attendees. The Board recognised Jo's significant contribution to the Trust and schools, particularly her support for the LAP schools and wider Trust activities.</p> <div data-bbox="229 510 1465 685"> <p data-bbox="242 533 341 564">Action:</p> <ul data-bbox="296 600 912 631" style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair to send a formal letter of thanks to Jo. </div> <div data-bbox="229 757 1465 931"> <p data-bbox="242 779 367 810">Decision:</p> <ul data-bbox="296 846 1343 878" style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board formally recorded its thanks to Jo for her service and contribution. </div>
2.	<p data-bbox="229 1034 405 1066">Trust Update</p> <p data-bbox="229 1115 284 1146">LAP</p> <div data-bbox="229 1191 826 1223"> <p> Data Capture - Dolton 2025-26 - Summer 2026.pdf</p> </div> <div data-bbox="229 1258 801 1290"> <p> Data Capture - The Clinton 2025-26 Summer.pdf</p> </div> <div data-bbox="229 1326 948 1357"> <p> Data_Capture_-Clawton_2025-26_LAP_Support July 2026.pdf</p> </div> <div data-bbox="229 1393 960 1424"> <p> Data_Capture_-St Helens_2025-26_LAP_Support July 2026.pdf</p> </div> <div data-bbox="229 1460 1114 1491"> <p> 10452630 - The Clinton Church of England Primary School - 145844 - Fina.pdf</p> </div> <p data-bbox="229 1532 1465 1697">The Board reviewed the latest school improvement information received from LAP. Directors welcomed the revised format of reporting, particularly the inclusion of actions undertaken and evidence of impact. Positive progress was noted across a number of schools, including improvements in phonics, pupil outcomes and wider school improvement activity.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1738 1465 1904">Directors discussed the timing of school improvement planning given the pending publication of summer outcomes data and the uncertainty surrounding future Trust arrangements. It was acknowledged that schools were currently in an unusual position, balancing end-of-year evaluation with potential transfer activity.</p>



The Board wished to ensure that future reports clearly articulate not only what has been achieved but also the next stages of improvement work.

LM - Reports outline what has been done, but what are schools planning to do next?

MB - Officers advised that schools are at an unusual point in the year awaiting outcomes data and potential transfer arrangements. Further planning discussions should take place in September once outcomes are available.

Action:

- Chair to include comments regarding future planning in correspondence to LAP.
- School improvement plans and priorities to be reviewed in September.

Decision:

- Board agreed that further discussion on school improvement priorities should take place in September when summer outcomes are known.

ACE

Nick Hind from ACE attended the meeting at this point to provide an update on school improvement activity across the five schools supported by ACE.

NH reported significant progress in curriculum development, pedagogy, and staffing stability across most schools. Positive feedback was shared regarding community engagement events, staff recruitment, and the quality of educational provision.

Particular praise was given to:

- Webbers
- Burlescombe
- Bampton
- Woolacombe

However, Nick raised significant concerns regarding leadership capacity at one school. Whilst support had been offered throughout the year, progress had been slower than expected and concerns remained regarding the Headteacher's ability to drive improvement at the pace required.

Directors challenged whether sufficient personalised support had been provided, noting that concerns regarding leadership capacity had been raised previously. Directors questioned



whether a standardised improvement approach had fully met the needs of that particular school.

There was agreement that whilst accountability was important, the Board also had a responsibility to support the individual concerned and ensure appropriate professional support was available.

MB - What support does the school require now?

NH - A formal support plan, clear milestones and enhanced leadership support were recommended.

DC - Has personalised support been provided?

NH - Support had been available, although additional support had not always been requested.

The Board thanked NH and the ACE team for their support. NH left the meeting.

The Board discussed why has stronger intervention not happened earlier. Discussion acknowledged historic leadership challenges and the need for a more proactive approach moving forward.

Action:

- Complete leadership evaluation and improvement planning work - ACE
- Review leadership support arrangements in September - MB
- Monitor progress early in Autumn Term - Board

Decision:

- Board formally noted concerns regarding leadership capacity.
- Board agreed that enhanced monitoring and support should be implemented from September.

3. Confidentiality Reminder

4. Declaration of Business Interests

The Chair declared interests in relation to:

- Woodland Federation.
- Blackdown Education Partnership.



	<p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declarations noted and agreed.
5.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting of 23.06.2026</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved as an accurate record.
6.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None raised.</p>
7.	<p>Policies</p> <p>The Board noted that there were policy matters requiring attention.</p>
8.	<p>Operations and Finance Update</p> <p>3 Year Budget</p> <p>KG presented the final budget for approval, including both the current nine-school model and a five-school scenario reflecting the proposed transfer arrangements.</p> <p>Directors received an overview of changes since the previous draft, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing restructures and revised staffing assumptions. • Teacher pay award adjustments. • Pension contribution changes. • Revised funding assumptions. • Increased estates and repairs allocations. • Reserve forecasts across the three-year period. <p>The Board welcomed the additional investment in estates and maintenance and thanked KG and the finance team for their work throughout the year.</p> <p><i>LM - What impact will changes to Pupil Premium and Free School Meal funding have?</i></p> <p>KG - Funding arrangements are changing nationally. The budget uses prudent assumptions until confirmed allocations are received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Register • DFE seeking assurances Burlescombe letter • Alumnis Reply



- [Email from the DfE 10 July 2026](#)

The Board received an update on operational matters, including compliance, estates management and ongoing maintenance work.

Directors noted:

- A DfE compliance assurance letter had been received regarding website compliance.
- A response had been submitted.
- Estates compliance work continued across all schools.
- Radon mitigation and monitoring work remained ongoing.
- Future estates support arrangements may require review depending on Trust transfer outcomes.

The Board recognised the increasing complexity of maintaining estates during a period of uncertainty and acknowledged the work undertaken by officers to maintain statutory compliance.

The Board received a detailed update regarding discussions with Regions Group, the DfE and ACE concerning future transfer arrangements.

Directors were advised that:

- No additional capital funding would be made available by the DfE.
- ACE had been asked to confirm whether it remained committed to the proposed transfer.
- Significant uncertainty remained regarding future arrangements.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding potential risks to schools, staff and school improvement activity.

Directors expressed concern about:

- Continued delays.
- The impact of uncertainty on schools.
- The importance of maintaining school improvement support.
- Potential contingency arrangements should ACE withdraw.

The Board discussed whether alternative Trust options should be explored whilst maintaining current improvement arrangements. Members emphasised that decisions should be driven by what would best support pupils and school improvement.

Should alternative Trust options now be explored?

No decision taken pending ACE Board response.

How can school improvement support be protected if transfer arrangements change?

MB confirmed this would remain a key priority.

Decisions



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three-year budget forecast was approved. • The five-school budget scenario was approved. • Submission of the Budget Forecast Return to the DfE was approved. • Await ACE Board decision before determining next steps. • Continue current arrangements pending clarification. <div> Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit approved budget forecast return. CFO • Continue compliance and estates monitoring programme. MB • Review future estates support arrangements if transfer arrangements change. MB • Seek formal outcome of ACE Board meeting. MB/SJ • Arrange extraordinary Board meeting following receipt of ACE decision. JR </div>
9.	<p>Safeguarding Update</p> <p>The Board received a safeguarding update. Minor record-keeping issues relating to former members of staff had been identified. No significant safeguarding concerns were reported.</p> <p>Directors were assured that corrective action was already underway.</p> <div> Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review and update of safeguarding records. MB </div>
10.	<p>Items brought forward by the Chair</p>
11.	<p>Date and time of next meetings</p> <p>Given the importance of forthcoming decisions regarding transfer arrangements, members agreed that a further meeting would be required once the outcome of the ACE Board meeting was known.</p> <p>Additional Board meeting scheduled for 23 July at 4:15pm.</p>

