

Alumnis Multi Academy Trust

Board of Directors Minutes

Date:	18.11.2025	Venue:	Teams - Online
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Minute Taker:	Jac Robilliard	Chair:	Sian Jenkins
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Start	17.45	End:	18:45
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Directors in Attendance	Initials	Category	Agenda
David Chaplin	DC	Foundation Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Reflections 2. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies 3. Confidentiality Reminder 4. Declaration of Business / Pecuniary Business Interests 5. Receive and approve Minutes 6. Matters arising from Minutes 7. Policies 8. Trust Update 9. Risk Register 10. Safeguarding Update 11. External communications 12. Items brought forward at the discretion of the Chair 13. Date and time of next meeting
Sian Jenkins	SJ	Foundation Director	
Amanda Lewry	AL	Foundation Director	
Matthew Shanks	MS	Foundation Director	
Apologies			
Ignacio Gonzalez-Paramo	IG	Co-Opted Director	
Leo Mackenzie	LM	Foundation Director	
Also Present			
Mark Blackman	MB	Trust Lead	
Jo Evans	JE	Trust Support	
Jac Robilliard	JR	Trust Business Manager	

Item	Minutes
1.	<p>Opening Reflections</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with reflections of gratitude to all Directors and staff for their continued dedication during a period of significant vulnerability for the Trust. Particular thanks were expressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board for its resilience and commitment. • MB and JE for their substantial efforts to stabilise leadership and school improvement. • JR for carrying out the central team's duties with notable thoroughness and effectiveness.
2.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all attendees. JE was introduced and provided a brief overview of her previous work within the Trust's schools and his current role supporting school improvement in the absence of a Director of Education.</p> <p>Apologies were received from LM and IGP. Accepted</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action</p> <p>Update Attendance record</p> </div>
3.	<p>Confidentiality Reminder</p> <p>All in attendance were reminded that any information provided and/or discussions undertaken / advice given in the course of part 2 must remain strictly confidential.</p>
4.	<p>Declaration of Business / Pecuniary Business Interests</p> <p>No new declarations were made. Trustees were reminded to raise any relevant interests should they arise during the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Minutes of the last meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <div style="background-color: purple; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>Decisions:</p> <p>The Board unanimously agreed the Minutes as a true and accurate record.</p> </div>
6.	<p>Matters arising from previous Board minutes above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay Policy - Update Teacher pay grades. Complete • Attendance Policy - Update to reflect current practice and ensure clear communication routes through school offices. Complete • Whistleblowing - paragraph 4.1 to provide clearer signposting, allowing staff to raise concerns with any board member if they feel uncomfortable following the normal route. Complete • Social Inclusion Officer to ensure that safeguarding information is clearly displayed on all school websites, with an update to be provided at the next meeting. Ongoing (carry forward)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Shanks to arrange a safeguarding visit. MS confirmed he had spoken with a Head Teacher but had not yet arranged a formal safeguarding visit. The Chair noted plans to discuss the visibility of trustees in schools later in the meeting. Carry forward
7.	<p>Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses Policy Directors Members Committee Expenses Policy Maternity Policy - New Charging and Remissions Policy Relationships and Sex Education Policy <div style="background-color: #0000FF; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board unanimously approved all the presented policies. </div>
8.	<p>Trust Update</p> <p>Summer 2025 Outcomes</p> <p>These had been recirculated for Directors' reference and form part of the basis for school improvement discussions. No questions were raised.</p> <p>Management Accounts & Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust is concluding its year-end audit. MB is expecting formal auditor feedback imminently. Early indications from the auditors are positive. Thanks were expressed to Kevin Goodwin (CFO) for significant work completed under challenging circumstances. The Chair will send formal thanks on behalf of the Board. The gap in management accounts earlier in the year will be noted in the annual accounts but the Trust has not been pursued for retrospective submission <p>Going Concern Statement</p> <p>MB presented the proposed wording for inclusion in the annual accounts. Trustees approved the recommended text.</p> <p>JE presented an overview of her work across the Trust:</p> <p>Clawton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant initial concern from a number of parental complaints and site condition issues. The interim headteacher has made a positive early impact. Concerns remain regarding the overall quality of teaching, behaviour and SEND provision <p>Clinton & Dolton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, the area of highest demand. The schools are experiencing some staffing issues and JE has absorbed some of this operational load. Temporary staffing and leadership capacity remain concerns.



- Work is underway to secure more stable arrangements, including potential staff movement and interim leadership support.
- Trustees discussed the interim measures in place to support school improvement and to maintain stability. Additional support from LAP and ACE is being established.

SEND Capacity

- Lack of SENDCO capacity remains a challenge.
- Bampton SENDCO is providing interim support, but clarity is required regarding continuation to year-end.
- There is ongoing discussion with LAP regarding longer-term SEND arrangements.

Trust Communication & Monitoring

Directors expressed concern that:

- Communications from incoming trusts (ACE/LAP) to LSCs and headteachers are inconsistent as this beds in.
- Trustees lack regular written records of school improvement activity and JE will liaise with incoming Trusts.

JE confirmed that detailed visit notes are being produced by incoming trusts and shared with her, though not yet routinely with the board.

Transfer to ACE and LAP

Directors discussed in depth:

- Delays in school improvement activity commencing after the DfE's original timetable (early 2025).
- Concerns about the vulnerability of the schools and staff, and the Board's ability to provide assurance without clear reporting structures.
- The absence of choice in selecting receiving trusts.
- The need for accelerated clarity and action.

MB responded:

- A target transfer date of 1 April has been agreed with the DfE project lead, subject to legal processes and TUPE.
- Both Trusts have now increased activity, though LAP was initially cautious due to previous experiences.
- Significant capital investment (approx. £3m) is likely to be essential; all three boards (current and incoming) will need to address this.
- Inadequate capital commitment from the DfE could jeopardise the transfer.

The Chair and trustees acknowledged the update but reiterated the depth of concern and the urgency required

Legal Fees



	<p>JR had contacted a number of legal firms to obtain quotes for transfer, which was shared. There was discussion regarding each quote. The Board agreed to engage with PNP Law in relation to the legal work connected with the Trust transfers.</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ to write thank you letter to KG • MB to follow up re LSC training • DC to send agenda to JR for January visits. JR to circulate </div> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed the initial going concern wording • The Board formally approved the pay decisions. • The Board agreed to engage with PNP Law in relation to the legal work connected with the Trust transfers </div>
9.	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>No Updates</p>
10.	<p>Safeguarding Update</p> <p>No Updates</p>
11.	<p>Committee and Link Director Update</p> <p>Learning & Standards / Ethos Updates</p> <p>DC/AL:</p> <p>January School Visits</p> <p>DC and AL will conduct monitoring visits in January. Focus areas:</p> <p>Ethos & Values (AL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of values into curriculum and planning • Evidence in pupils' work and pupil voice • Progress since the last SIAMS • LSC monitoring of values (using Q-card framework) <p>Leadership & Standards (DC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with stakeholders regarding the transfer process • Security and clarity of leadership capacity • Headteacher workload • Progress against school improvement priorities



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupil outcomes (linked to earlier data provided) <p>DC will draft an outline and share with JR to coordinate with schools.</p> <p>LSC Training / Communication</p> <p>Directors requested clarity on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training and briefings for LSCs ● Communication timelines ● How and when incoming trusts will formally begin working with LSCs <p>MB agreed to raise this with ACE and LAP and ensure the process is strengthened.</p> <p>Safeguarding Link Update</p> <p>MS reported no significant issues since the previous meeting, aside from one matter which he and the Chair have separately followed up with the relevant headteacher.</p> <p>Pay Committee</p> <p>The Pay Committee’s recommendations were noted.</p> <p>The Board formally approved the pay decisions.</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DC to send agenda to JR for January visits. JR to circulate </div> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board formally approved the pay decisions. </div>
12.	<p>Items brought forward at the discretion of the Chair</p> <p>Communication record</p>
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Calendar</p> <p>16/12/25 - 5.45pm -</p>

