



Nexus MAT Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 26 February 2025
5.00 pm – 7.30 pm – Nexus HQ

Present:	Role:	Initials:
Sue Shelley	Director & Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	SS
Gillian Askew	Director	GA
Colin Bradley	Director	CB
Phil Bradley	Director	PB
Mark Greenwood	Director	MG
Tina Havenhand	Director	TH
Victoria Morris	Director	VM
Rachel Potts	Director/Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	RP
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Also Present:		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Corporate Affairs	JH
Rebecca Horne	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Karen Smith	Chief Finance Officer	CFO
Jacky Tattershall	Assistant CEO – Quality Assurance & Improvement	JT
Dave Barber	Director of Education – Ebor Academy Trust	DB
Debbie Clinton	Trustee - Ebor Academy Trust	DC
Rachel Totton	Vice Chair of Trustees – Ebor Academy Trust	RT
Apologies:		
Naomi Cooper	Director	NC
No Apologies:		
None		

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from NC.	
1.2 To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted for NC.	
2. ITEMS FOR AOB	
Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered The confidential minutes from the January 2025 meeting will be included on the March agenda for review and approval. ACTION – Clerking Services to add to the March agenda.	CLERKING SERVICES 26/03/25
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3.1 Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda None declared.	
4. NEXUS MAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES	
4.1 To approve the minutes of the following meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Board Meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2025. The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.	
4.2 Review of Action Tracker: Action Tracker was reviewed and updated as appropriate.	
4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes No matters were raised.	
5. EBOR PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION	
Minuted separately as Confidential Appendix 1.	
6. ANNUAL STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE REPORT	
The CEO addressed concerns at Lotus School, as highlighted in the overview report.	

Key points included:

- The Headteacher has resigned, and an interim Executive Headteacher is currently in place.
- The CEO is actively working to secure a permanent leadership appointment for that role. The interim Executive Headteacher has been offered the position on a more permanent basis, but if she declines, she will remain in her role until at least August 31, allowing time to advertise and appoint if necessary.
- If the role is to be advertised, there is a plan to advertise for an Executive Head with a competitive salary to attract qualified candidates.
- The school will operate across multiple hubs and sites, which may require additional leadership capacity over time.

A process of consultation has completed on the potential to “de-amalgamate” Kenwood Academy – splitting the Sheffield and Barnsley provisions into distinct entities. This is a process familiar from the Becton de-amalgamation.

The Trust has been shortlisted for SEND Trust provision of the year at the Multi Academy Trust Association (MATA) National MAT awards on 6 March 2025.

The Trust is continuing to explore growth and new provision with five local authorities (LA):

In relation to Sheffield, key developments were highlighted:

- New Provision at Banner Cross Hall and replacement provision at Meersbrook Hall (to replace Kenwood/Moncrieffe) are in progress.
- Early partnership work is underway with Minerva Learning Trust and the Council to explore the potential for mainstream-based specialist provision across 1 to 3 sites.
- The Trust has visited the old Cole Brothers store in the city centre to explore possibilities for post-16 SEND provision and is engaging with the local authority (LA) to ensure alignment with their planning, although this would need quite a lot of work.
- Collaboration is also occurring with Sheffield Hallam and the University of Sheffield to identify assets they may be willing to sell or long-term lease.

In relation to Barnsley, JH explained officers haven’t yet been entirely clear in what they want, however, there could be some buildings or sites that are a possibility.

CEO explained Seven Hills School will be joining the Trust shortly pending due diligence and will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.

JH reported that the CEO of Crown Commercial Services and the DfE representative for procurement will be visiting on the 5th of March.

A confidential discussion took place about another non-Nexus MAT school, which is included as a separate confidential appendix.

7. SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD	
Minuted separately as Confidential Appendix 2.	
<p>7.1. Academies Dashboard Summary Report</p> <p>Circulated to Directors for information prior to the meeting.</p> <p>7.2 Academies Intervention Report</p> <p>Circulated to Directors for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
8. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT	
<p>CFO explained the management accounts that were sent out were the Period (P) 4 accounts.</p> <p>The December forecasts remain strong, with an in-year revenue surplus aligned with the budget. Although there has been a slight deterioration in the in-year surplus forecast compared to the previous month, the overall financial outlook remains positive.</p> <p>The Trust is still projecting a healthy revenue carry forward of £9 million and a capital fund carry forward of £1.6 million, ensuring financial stability.</p> <p>The 2.8% pay offer for support staff has now been incorporated into the forecasts in the P4 reports, reflecting an adjustment from the previous 2% assumption in earlier reports.</p> <p>The CFO addressed the deficit positions of some schools and discussed pupil numbers in relation to these challenges.</p> <p>CFO highlighted changes to the capital forecasts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelford School: The planned roofing works have now been expanded to a full roof replacement. • Enterprise Works: Additional capital costs have been incorporated into the forecasts. <p>Regarding risks, the CFO highlighted concerns around pupil growth assumptions, with certain schools specifically noted in the forecasts.</p>	
9. HALLAMSHIRE ACADEMY UPDATE	
JH provided an update regarding Hallamshire Academy. The projected September 2025 opening is still on track, and JH reported that the project is slightly ahead of schedule.	

10. CST BRIEFINGS	
<p>This was circulated to Directors for information prior to the meeting.</p> <p>10.1. Ofsted Consultation on New Inspection Framework</p> <p>This was circulated to Directors for information prior to the meeting.</p> <p>10.2. DfE Consultation on School Accountability Reform</p> <p>This was circulated to Directors for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>11. POLICY UPDATE REPORT</p> <p>The CEO reported some minor wording changes in the Exclusion and Suspension Policy. The Directors approved all proposed changes in the report.</p> <p>ACTION – JH to issue policy briefing on updates.</p>	<p>JH 28.02.25</p>
<p>12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>The Directors wished Renata well in her recovery.</p>	
<p>13. REVIEW OF RISK</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>14. CONFIDENTIALITY</p> <p>Item 5 minuted separately as Confidential Appendix 1.</p> <p>Items 6 and 7 minuted separately as Confidential Appendix 2.</p>	
15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	

Wednesday 26 March 2025	17:00-19:30	Teams
Wednesday 30 April 2025	17:00-19:30	Nexus HQ
Wednesday 21 May 2025	17:00-19:30	Teams
Wednesday 25 June 2025	17:00-19:30	Nexus HQ
Wednesday 23 July 2025	17:00-19:30	Nexus HQ

Minutes approved.

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
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