

Stanwix School – Full Governors Teams meeting with Mike Kirsopp of Dodd & Co to present the financial statements and audit report for the year ended 31 August 2023
19 December 2024 7.30pm on Teams

Present: Kuldip McMullan, Catherine Briggs, Elizabeth Mallinson (Chair), Tom Little, Michael Johnson, Karen Robertson, Jen Barry, Lee Carson

Also present: Megan Stokoe (Guest), Mike Kirsopp from Dodds (Guest)

	Item		Action
1	Welcome / Apologies	CB welcomed Mike Kirsopp from Dodd & Co who was here to present the financial statements and audit report for the year ended 31 August 2023.	
2	Financial statements and audit report for the year ended 31 August 2023	Mike Kirsopp talked through the financial statements. He set out the following key movements: Statement of Financial Activities: Income: A £93,000 increase in income compared to the prior year. This included a £20,000 increase in donations and capital grants and a small increase in catering income. The main movements in ESFA and LA grant income were: • £37,000 increase in the supplementary grant • £31,000 SEN additional income Expenditure: the main change was on staff costs. It looks like a decrease but this is not the case as it reflects the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) adjustment. The bottom line is a (£55,000) in year deficit. Total funds have increased from £1.945m to £2.274m. However, most of this is due to LGPS gains which has been common for most schools this year. Balance sheet: Mike talked through the balance sheet. He noted that there was a £65,000 increase in debtors compared to the prior year. This was due to the recovery of VAT post year end. At £209,000 creditors were broadly in line with the £212,000 last year. Cash at bank and in hand had decreased by £76,000 to £339,000.	

Mike presented the reconciliation between the draft accounts submitted and the final audit accounts. The only adjusted items were:

- £4,000 additional depreciation of fixed assets
- £13,000 additional accrual for late energy charges from Corona

These took the in year deficit from the draft (£38,000) to (£55,000).

He then talked through the reconciliation of the (£55,000) deficit in the financial statements (before actuarial gains) to the (£27,000) operating deficit:

- Less: capital grant income (£27,000)
- Add back: deprecation £55,000
- Add back: LGPS adjustment – service costs (£20,000)
- Add back: LGPS adjustment – interest £20,000

MJ asked for further explanation of the movement from the £24,000 operating surplus in the prior year to the (£27,000) operating deficit this year. Mike talked through some the key movements and offered to prepare and send a summary.

This was e-mailed the following day:

Surplus for 2022	24
Increase in donation income	2
Increase in funding for educational operations	69
Increase in other trading income	4
Increase in direct costs	(76)
Increase in allocated support costs	(50)
Deficit for 2023	<u>(27)</u>

Mike then talked through the Audit Management Letter: They were able to issue an unqualified audit opinion.

They noted some inconsistency in some information on GIAS and the school's website which KM took an action to update on the school website

It was noted that two of the three Members are also Trustees which is contrary to DfE guidance that the majority of Members are separate to the Board of

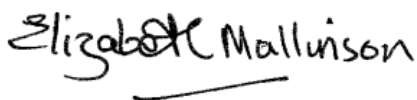
KM to update school website

		Trustees. CB explained that this was the Board's aspiration but recruitment of Trustees and Members had been very difficult. The Board would try again to recruit and then rectify this situation. The letter recommended improving credit control procedures as the debtors ledger included £2,941.61 of balances over 12 months old. Mike noted that the three year budget forecast submitted to the ESFA. There was discussion around this, the projected pupil numbers driving the forecast and the plans to address this position. Mike flagged the key changes in this year's Academy Trust Handbook. CB thanked Mike on behalf of all the Trustees for his presentation and answering our questions. She asked him to pass on our thanks to his team for their work on the financial statements and audit.	
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Minutes approved by

Elizabeth Mallinson

Chair of Governors

Elizabeth Mallinson