

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 21 May 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 21 May 2015 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness

Henry Colthurst

Alderman Peter Estlin

Alderman The Lord Mountevans

Christopher Hayward

Virginia Rounding

Ian Seaton

Philip Woodhouse

Roy Blackwell (United Westminster
Schools)

Tim Campbell (Bright Ideas Trust)

Helen Sanson (Tower Hamlets Education
Business Partnership)

David Taylor (Livery Schools Link)

Officers:

Peter Lisley

Alistair MacLellan

Laura Donegani

David Pack

Anne Pietsch

Philip Saunders

Josh Burton

John Conway

Gerald Mehrtens

Assistant Town Clerk

Town Clerk's Department

Town Clerk's Department

Economic Development Office

Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

Remembrancer's Department

Department of Community and Children's Services

Department of Community and Children's Services

Department of Community and Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy John Bennett, Reverend Dr Martin Dudley, Stuart Fraser and Alderman William Russell.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members made the following declarations under the Code of Conduct.

Henry Colthurst

Board of Governors, Mossbourne Community Academy

Board of Mossbourne Federation

Member of Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers

Alderman Peter Estlin

Treasurer, Bridewell Royal Hospital - King Edward's School, Witley

Christopher Hayward

Member of the Court of Governors – Christ’s Hospital
Governor – Bridewell Royal Hospital
Governor – City of London School for Girls
Member of the Court of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

Deputy Catherine McGuinness

Board of Governors of The City Academy, Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
United Westminster Schools Foundation
Board of School Governors and Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital
Barbican Centre Board
Guildhall School Development Fund

Alderman The Lord Mountevans

Board of Governors of the City of London Academy Islington

Virginia Rounding

Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors of The City Academy Hackney

Ian Seaton

Board of Governors City of London School
Board of Governors Bridewell Royal Hospital
Donation Governor Christ's Hospital

Philip Woodhouse

Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman’s School
Board of Mossbourne Federation
Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy, Hackney
Chairman of Governors of Wellesley House School
Member of the Court of Worshipful Company of Grocers

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Board received the Order of Court of Common Council dated 23 April 2015 appointing the Board and providing its terms of reference. The Town Clerk noted that Mr Blackwell’s term expired in April 2017 and Mr Taylor’s term in April 2016, as per the resolution of the Board in December 2014.

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4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Board elected a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29. Deputy Catherine McGuinness, being the only member expressing a willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Board elected a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30. Henry Colthurst, being the only member expressing a willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Town Clerk took the opportunity to brief the Board on its role for the coming year, noting its direct responsibility for the existing and forthcoming City Academies, across areas such as governance, appointment of governors and the City of London Corporation's reputation as sponsor. In other areas the Board's responsibility was by way of scrutiny and would be more indirect – through use of means such as committee resolutions - in questioning the City of London Corporation's approach in areas such as employability and the performance of the independent schools.

6. **PUBLIC MINUTES AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Free School Applications

The Chairman noted that the Education Board's responsibility for the free school application at Galleywall Road in Southwark – and over other applications - needed to be asserted to prevent confusion over 'ownership' of the application. At present there was a risk that other bodies such as existing academy governing bodies would regard themselves as responsible for what were ultimately City of London Corporation applications. This situation reflected deficiencies in the way in which the City's academies were now constituted, which needed addressing.

School Governor Training

In response to a question from a member, the Education Policy Officer noted that the first year of training had focused on existing City of London Corporation governors. Now this had been completed, the programme would be expanded to other City of London Corporation members with a view to creating a pool of trained governors.

Employability

In response to a question from a member, the Partnerships Manager agreed to circulate the Economic Development Office's employability mapping to the Board.

7. **GENERAL ELECTION 2015 - IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION POLICY**

The Board heard an update of the Remembrancer on the implications to education policy of the recent General Election. It was noted that guidance for schools wishing to convert to academies had been published on 15 May 2015. The guidance reflected the emphasis on academies in the Conservative manifesto, which promised efforts to convert failing and coasting schools into academies. Lastly, the government had committed to there being 500 free schools by 2020, as well as to clamp down on satellite London campuses of provincial universities.

The Chairman noted that whilst there was a commitment to deal with coasting schools, it was not clear what was proposed for coasting academies. Members then discussed the issue of academy funding, noting first that any national

formula would arguably have a detrimental impact on the money available to London, second that academies like other schools were already feeling the impact of reductions in funding, particularly at over 16, and thirdly that no deficit plan was in place for academies despite the fact some would arguably enter financial difficulties during 2015/16.

8. **EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT**

The Board received an education strategy update report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

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9. **IMPLEMENTING THE EDUCATION STRATEGY 2013-15**

The Board considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the implementation of the Education Strategy 2013-15. Members noted that overall the report could be more concise, and discussed the potential to combine strands one and two of the strategy from 2016, and agreed that emerging priorities such as criteria for academy expansion, establishment of a clear over-arching governance structure, creation of a pool of governors including employees of City firms and/or members of Livery Companies, and clarifying where the Education Board could influence the City of London Corporation's approach to employability were due further consideration later in 2015.

RESOLVED, that

- The report, subject to changes made under delegated authority by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, be agreed and submitted to the Court of Common Council.

10. **SPECIAL INTEREST AREA SCHEME**

The Board considered a report of the Town Clerk on the potential to create Special Interest Areas for the Board. Given members supported the proposal, the Town Clerk undertook to canvass the Board outside of the meeting to establish members' preferred areas of interest ideally with the view to appointing at least one elected member and one external co-opt to an area where they felt that they could add value.

RESOLVED, that

- The Education Board adopt a Special Interest Area Scheme.

11. **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on a quality assurance and accountability framework for the City academies. Members supported the proposal, and it was noted that the City of London Corporation should exercise a degree of tact when implementing the proposal in its joint-sponsor academies.

RESOLVED, that

- The proposed quality assurance and accountability framework be approved.

12. LIVERY EDUCATION REVIEW 2015

The Board considered a report of the Town Clerk on the Livery Education Review 2015 and the proposed creation of a Livery Education and Training Office (LETO). Members were supportive of the proposals, although noted that it had yet to be seen whether individual livery companies would be willing to pay a subscription to support the enhanced LETO proposal. They also noted that some livery companies had expressed concerns during the review of the potential for interference by the City of London Corporation. The Chairman noted that she would be writing to the report author to thank her for her hard work and commitment to the review.

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13. CITY SCHOOLS: PRIORITISATION FOR ACADEMY EXPANSION

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services setting out a process with which academy expansion opportunities would be considered and prioritised. The Chairman noted that this process would need more consideration when the wider questions of academy governance, and the revision of the education strategy, were considered, but that some basis for considering requests was needed immediately.

RESOLVED, that

- The proposed prioritisation process for the City of London Corporation to assess requests to act as an academy sponsor be adopted as an interim measure pending the expected review of strategic priorities for the ensuing year.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
New City of London Primary Academy (Southwark)**

The Education and Early Years Manager briefed members that the new City of London Primary Academy in Southwark would incorporate Galleywall into its name. This would resonate with the local community given it was the name of the longstanding school that stood on the site. In addition, the name referred the longer history of the site given it dated from a temporary fortification constructed in the area during the 11th century.

16. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

- Item(s) 17-20

17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015 were approved as a correct record.

18. **PROJECTED EXAMINATION RESULTS 2015**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on projected examination results for 2015.

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19. **NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

20. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 5.35 pm

Chairman

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