

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 21 May 2020

Notes of the meeting of the Education Board held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 21 May 2020 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst (Chairman)	Benjamin Murphy
Ann Holmes (Deputy Chairman)	The Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell
Randall Anderson	Ruby Sayed
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Tijs Broeke	Rachel Bower (Co-opted Member)
Caroline Haines	Deborah Knight (Co-opted Member)
Alderman Nicholas Lyons	

Officers:

Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Kerry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Anne Bamford	- Department of Community & Children's Services
Daniel McGrady	- Department of Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Sadaf Anwar	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Caroline Hawley	- Head of Development, Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Graeme Hood	- Group Accountant, Barbican Centre and Guildhall School of Music and Drama

1. GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

In considering this item, Randall Anderson, Ann Holmes and the Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell declared that they were members of the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Members received a report of the Principal of Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) on Guildhall School of Music and Drama Scholarships 2019/20 and 2020/21 and the following points were made:

- Members noted their request on 5th March 2020 that more information be provided by the GSMD on the impact of previous ring-fenced funding allocations conditions as well as any new funding criteria.
- This information was now available and the GSMD was further proposing that access to these scholarship opportunities be extended to

under-18 students in the Junior Guildhall programme to provide an additional pathway into music and drama education for disadvantaged students, including those studying at schools within the City of London family of schools, which would also serve to align the scholarship programme more closely with the City of London's Education, Skills and Cultural and Creative Learning strategies.

- Scholarship funding was awarded on a case-by-case basis and students school fees and living costs were supported via a range of funds including scholarship funds, private donors and student loans. Seven students had been supported through the GSMD scholarships programme for the 2019/20 academic year; whilst these students had been mainly vocal students, scholarships were not limited to this area and approximately 600 students at the GSMD (of a cohort of 950) received some form of support towards their studies. Scholarship funding was key to attracting a diverse cohort of students who might not otherwise be able to study at GSMD and supported the School to maintain its international reputation as a leading conservatoire and drama school by attracting the most talented students.
- In discussion, Members agreed that the GSMD Scholarships programme be continued for the 2020/21 financial year. Members discussed how scholarships should be targeted towards the most disadvantaged young people and voiced their support for the proposal to extend scholarship opportunities to under-18 students in the Junior Guildhall programme which was a specialist Saturday School offering advanced training to young people between the ages of 4 and 18. This would provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to gain the necessary experience and expertise to enter the GSMD, including pupils within the City of London family of schools.
- Members suggested that Junior Guildhall bursary opportunities should be widely and better communicated to schools and families who might otherwise not consider applying to the programme. Members also agreed that an anonymised summary of previous scholarship awards be provided to Board Members and requested that recipients be approached in future to share how they had benefitted from their grant. It was requested that a report on the impact of the 2020/21 scholarship grant funding should be presented to the Education Board in 2021/22.
- The Chairman noted that whilst the Education Board had a role in approving this funding, it was held within the Finance Committee's City Cash budget albeit subject to approval from the Education Board. He suggested that consideration be given to bringing these funds into the Education Board budget for future years.

It was agreed to:

- Note the impact of the centrally funded scholarships awarded in 2019/20; and,

- Recommend the Town Clerk take the following decision under urgency procedures, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen:
 - Approve funding of £30k to Guildhall School of Music and Drama for the 2020/21 financial year from the Finance Committee City Cash budget set aside for this purpose, in accordance with amended scholarship criteria promoting scholarships to students under 18 years of age in the Junior Guildhall School Programme, as set out in Paragraph 8 of the GSMD report.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk requesting views on the appointment of a Co-opted Member to the Education Board and the following point was made:

- Nominations for a Co-opted Member with specialist experience in music had been sought from the Board on two occasions as a result of which an application had been received from Dr Ioan Davies who had wide-ranging experience and expertise in music performance and education.

It was agreed to:

- Recommend the approval of the appointment of Dr Ioan Davies for a four-year term to the Education Board in principal, subject to approval at the next formal meeting of the Education Board on 23 July 2020.

3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Strategic Education and Skills Director advised that the City of London Corporation was preparing for phased reopening of schools on 1 June 2020, which was likely to begin with Reception and Years 1 and 6. Risk assessments were being undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team in each school and would be considered by relevant Governors and Trustees to identify safety and operational issues. It was noted that matters remained fluid and subject to change. There were particular concerns around the disproportionate effect that the COVID-19 shutdown had on disadvantaged pupils. The Chairman requested that an update on plans to re-open schools be sent to Board Members in early June 2020. A Member led the Board in thanking the Education Skills Unit and the City of London Academies Trust Central Team for their excellent work supporting schools and Governors during this difficult time.

The Virtual London Careers Festival would be held between 29 June to 3 July and would now be a nationwide event. Rachel Bower had recently joined the Careers Working Group to contribute towards the development of the Festival. Board Members were requested to provide details of any contacts they might have relating to skills and careers to Fatema Chowdhury, Skills Project Officer. The City's new online learning initiative, *Green Spaces, Learning Places* had recently been launched and offered a range of virtual learning resources for children and young people.

The Chairman advised Members that it was his intention to stand down as Chairman as soon as governance arrangements allowed and ideally before the July meeting. The Deputy Chairman also announced her plans to stand down as a Trustee of the Board of Trustees of the City of London Academies Trust with a view to nominating Caroline Haines to take up the vacant Trustee role allotted to the Deputy Chairman of the Education Board or nominee.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER – APPENDIX A**

This was a non-public appendix to Item 2: Appointment of Co-opted Member.

The meeting ended at 10.59 am

Chairman

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