

EDUCATION BOARD

Monday, 5 February 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 5 February 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Caroline Haines (Chairman)	John Griffiths
Naresh Hari Sonpar (Deputy Chairman)	Adeleke
Steve Goodman OBE	Mary Robey
Luis Felipe Tilleria	

In Attendance

Officers:

Deborah Bell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Scott Caizley	- Community & Children's Services Department
Jack Joslin	- The City Bridge Trust
Emily Rimington	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Torriano Stewart	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received, and the following Members observed the meeting online: Alderman Robert Howard, Ruby Sayed, Deputy Shravan Joshi, and Floyd Steadman.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 07 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Board noted the report of the Clerk.

5. **GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS UPDATE**

The Board noted the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

6. **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Board noted the update of the Clerk on Member Development noting that training session will resume during February and March, with work ongoing to deliver sessions differently to increase attendance. The Board noted that the next meeting of the Member Development Committee will be on 08 March 2024.

7. **CITY PREMIUM GRANT 2023/24 ROUND 2 APPLICATIONS**

The Board considered the report of the Community and Children's Director updating Members with key information relating to the second round of City Premium Grant applications for 2023/24, noting that the amount of funding still available to the Family of Schools for the 2023/24 academic year is £526,500. Members noted that applications for 41 projects have been received and reviewed, with nearly all proposed projects eligible to be considered for funding. The combined associated cost of eligible projects is £894,777. Members also noted that the report further proposes that remaining eligible bids from this round be considered for 2024/25 Round 1 funding, in April of 2024, should the schools that have bid wish to re-enter the Spring 2024 bidding round with the same proposals.

RESOLVED, That Members delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Director of Education and Skills to distribute Round 2 awards from the City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant, the City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant, and the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant to the schools.

8. **UPDATE ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

9. **EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET UPDATE**

Members noted the forecast outturn position for the 2023/24 Education Board Budget.

10. **EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE**

Members noted the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, noting that during recent engagement sessions Members had shared their preferences regarding the structure of the new strategy, recalling that Members had felt that the new strategy should focus only on aspects of education that the City Corporation can actually deliver or meaningfully influence. Members also expressed their desire that the strategy be less complicated, less siloed, and far more focused. Members noted that environmental and outdoor learning would be interwoven throughout each agreed priority, not as an explicit priority in its own right.

RESOLVED, That the strategy:

1. Include all seven priorities. This widens overall focus and allows for a more explicit commitment in each area but will result in a smaller number of actions and outcomes per priority.

OR

2. Specify only five priorities, by removing 'EDI' and 'Technology', and instead integrate these two areas across all activity. This tightens overall focus and allows for more actions and outcomes per priority but reduces how explicitly 'EDI' and 'Technology' are referenced.

11. EDUCATION, CULTURAL AND CREATIVE LEARNING AND SKILLS UPDATE

Members noted the updates on recent events and activities delivered across the three strategies overseen by the Education Board: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills, noting also the calendar of meetings, forums and events for the 2023-24 academic year.

12. UPDATING THE LIST OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERS

Members noted the report that presented key information relating to the existing relationships developed by the Education Strategy Unit (ESU) with Cultural and Creative Learning (CCL) partners who receive core funding from the City of London Corporation (CoLC), or are located in the Square Mile.

RESOLVED, That Members approve:

- The new criteria and list of CCL partners, so that all the partners listed in the appendix 1 are eligible to access financial support from the CCL budget for specific projects for children, based on an evaluated bidding system approved by Members; and
- The updated list of cultural destinations in the School Visits Fund portfolio to include all the partners in the new list.

13. UPDATE ON THE LONDON CAREERS FESTIVAL

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

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

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	Paragraph

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17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

18. **UPDATE ON PARENTAL TOOLKIT**

19. **FINANCE UPDATE: THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND & CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY**

The Board considered the report of The Chamberlain presenting draft Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the most recent year to 31 March 2023 for these two charities for which the City of London Corporation is the sole corporate trustee: City Educational Trust Fund (290840 – “CETF”) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (“CEC”) (312836).

Members also noted the update on the charity’s financial position in the period to date (9 months to 31 December 2023), a forecast for the remainder of the financial year to 31 March 2024, and longer-term budgets for each charity are presented as well as a cashflow for the charity with a request for approval of future cash draw downs.

RESOLVED, That Members, acting collectively for the City of London Corporation as Trustee of the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (“CEC”) (312836) in relation to each decision, being satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity concerned and its beneficiaries,:

- i. Note the contents of the report and appendices, including the draft Trustee’s annual report and financial statements which will be reported to Finance Committee for approval is due for submission by the 31st January 2024;
- ii. Agree the budget for the City Educational Trust Fund to the anticipated date of closure in 2028, including the level of recharged management and administration costs which confirms the ongoing support of the dedicated Central Grants Unit staff member up to the point of the charity’s closure;
- iii. Approve draw down of CETF funds of £1.1m to cover the first year of Strategic Funding. Funding is subject to further Committee decisions in April 2024; and
- iv. Note the cash flow of the Combined Education Charity and approve the draw down of funds to cover current grant commitments of £150,000 in April and a further £100,000 in October 2024.

20. **CHAIRS' UPDATE**

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

There were no questions.

22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

Chairman

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