

Committee	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls	7 December 2020
Subject: Proposal to Convene a Governance Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3a-d; 8c-d
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Kerry Nicholls, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

The Board of Governors is requested to consider convening a Governance Committee of the City of London School for Girls for the 2020/21 academic year. Should this be agreed, Governors are requested to consider the proposed composition, terms of reference and membership of the Governance Committee for the 2020/21 academic year.

Recommendations

That Members:

- Agree that the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls be convened for the 2020/21 academic year;
- Consider and approve the composition and terms of reference of the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls; and,
- Appoint the membership of the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls for the 2020/21 academic year.

Main Report

Background

1. This report presents a proposal to convene a Governance Committee of the City of London School for Girls and should this be agreed, asks Governors to agree the proposed composition, terms of reference and membership of the Governance Committee for the 2020/21 academic year.
2. The Order of the Court of Common Council for the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls dated 16 July 2020, appointed the Board of Governors for the 2020/21 municipal year and set out its terms of reference. This included a membership comprising:
 - Up to two Aldermen nominated by the Court of Aldermen;
 - Up to 12 Commoners elected by the Court of Common Council at least one of whom shall have fewer than five years' service on the Court at the time of their appointment;
 - The following ex-officio Members:
 - the Chairman of the Board of Governors of City of London School
 - the Chairman of the Board of Governors of City of London Freemen's School; and,
 - Up to six co-opted non-City of London Corporation Governors with experience relevant to the Board.
3. The Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls currently directly considers the appointment of Co-opted Governors with experience relevant to the Board and advises on the skills needed by the Board of Governors to assist in the selection of new Common Council Governors.
4. It has been identified that, in line with recommendations by the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS), formal arrangements are in place at the City of London School via its Governance Committee to source, interview and recommend the appointment of Co-opted Governors to the Board of Governors as well as advise on the skills needed by the Board of Governors to support the selection of new Common Council Governors. The City of London Freemen's School has now also constituted a Nominations Committee.
5. This proposal is put before Governors within a context of other relevant matters such as the Black Lives Matter movement (and consequent work undertaken by the City through the Tackling Racism Taskforce); as well as the Tomlinson and Lisvane Reviews.
6. It is therefore proposed to formalise the existing arrangements by convening a Governance Committee to support the appointment process for Governors and review the skills set of the Board of Governors in line with the arrangements at the City of London School. It would also provide a broader governance oversight function.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Composition and Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee.

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PROPOSED COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee's role is to advise on the skills needed on the Board of Governors to assist in the selection of new Governors and to provide advice on governance matters concerning the School, acting as a sounding board for proposals for new committees.

The Committee to meet once per annum with additional meetings convened on an ad hoc basis as required.

Composition

- The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls who shall act as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, respectively.
- Up to four other Governors appointed by the Board of Governors

All Governors on the Board are eligible to serve.

Quorum

The quorum shall be any three Governors.

Any decision taken by the Committee shall require the agreement of the majority of Common Council Governors present at the meeting and voting.

Terms of Reference

The Committee has the power to act on the following matters:

- The Committee will monitor Governor training and maintain and annually update a skills audit of the Board of Governors, identifying and noting gaps;
- The Committee will seek to identify individuals able to serve as Co-opted Governors;
- Such gaps as may occur should be used as guidance helping to assist in the selection of Common Council Governors.

To make recommendations for the Board's approval on the following matters:

- Having sought individuals to serve as Co-opted Governors, the Committee will recommend these appointments to the Board for final approval;
- The Committee will make recommendations to the Board on Designated Governor Roles;
- The Committee will provide recommendations on any other governance matters concerning the School, including scrutinising proposals for new committees and working parties.

The Committee should report to the following Board of Governors' meeting.