

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 19 November 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held virtually on Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Ann Holmes (Chair)	Alderman Nicholas Lyons
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)	Benjamin Murphy
Henry Colthurst	Ruby Sayed
Randall Anderson	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Tijs Broeke	Dr Ioan Davies
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin	Deborah Knight
Shravan Joshi	

In Attendance

Officers:

Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department
Tim Jones	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Aqib Hussain	- Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Emily Rimington	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Anne Bamford	- Department of Community & Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Department of Community & Children's Services
Daniel McGrady	- Department of Community & Children's Services
Emily Garland	- Remembrancer's Department

Observing:

Sharon Ament	- Director of the Museum of London (Items 1-7)
Frazer Swift	- Museum of London (Items 1-7)
Beth Crosland	- Museum of London (Items 1-7)
Mark Emmerson	- CEO, City of London Academies Trust

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor William Russell and Rachel Bower.

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

Tijs Broeke noted that he was Chair of the City of London Academies Trust Board of Trustees.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

A small group of Members from the Education Board, Policy & Resources Committee and Finance Committee were due to meet to discuss a draft funding model created in light of the Tomlinson Review. It was requested that Members at that meeting also take a broader look at all the Review recommendations.

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 24 September 2020, were approved as an accurate record.

4. **PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Board's outstanding actions.

- 10/2020/P – This was completed at the September 2020 meeting.
- 16/2020/P – The Chair clarified that Achievement for all *might* be invited to a future meeting but only providing the focus was on parental engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

5. **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Members received a verbal update regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the City's Family of Schools.

Guidance had changed in relation to those identified as critically vulnerable but the schools continued to provide programmes, such as the continuation of the school day, which allowed parents to search for work, training or educational opportunities.

The Government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme for 2021 will be provided after the Winter Grant Scheme which is set to until the end of March 2021.

This week, the Department for Education (DfE) had announced the intention to proceed with exams in 2021 contrary to the Welsh devolved government decision to cancel them. These would start three weeks later than they would usually.

Pupils in year 7 and above were now required to wear facemasks when moving outside the classroom on the School site.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. CULTURE MILE LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT AND CASE FOR INVESTMENT 2021/22

Members considered an annual report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the Culture Mile Learning impact evaluations for 2020/21 and case for investment for 2021/22.

The Chair had invited the Director of the Museum of London, as lead on Culture Mile Learning (CML), to make a presentation on this item.

Members discussed the valuable work of CML, the high-quality resources it provides, its vital importance to schools and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the lower limit of the Fusion Prize entrant age restrictions would not be lowered. CML do, however, provide multiples offers and opportunities for younger audiences.

It was suggested that a focus for the next three years could be to get greater involvement from businesses in the City, both in terms of funding and participation. It was noted that businesses were already engaged with Culture Mile, and that CML were thinking about how to link in with that pool of stakeholders.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Approve the investment of £247,000 from the Education Board's budget to Culture Mile Learning in the 2021/22 Financial Year to deliver the activity proposed in Appendix 1 (Case of Investment and Appendix 2 (Action Plan).
- Approve the proposal that Culture Mile Learning take a flexible approach in delivery of activities in light of changing restrictions around COVID-19, with the flexibility to repurpose funds up to a value of £10k providing it is only used to meet the specified objectives.
- Approve that delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Education Board, to consider any proposal from Culture Mile Learning on the repurposing of funds beyond a value of £10k; and
- Note the impact evaluations of Culture Mile Learning projects delivered over 2020/21 in accordance with the Action Plan approved by the Education Board on 14 November 2019. These are included in Appendices 3-7.

7. CULTURE MILE LEADING THE CULTURAL RECOVERY

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding Culture Mile leading the cultural recovery.

Culture Mile Team were in the process of drawing up the recommendations on what core thematic areas should be in focus for the next two years. The Education Board had a key interest particularly in the skills and learning agenda.

There was continued interest from Members on how businesses could get involved. There was a Culture Mile Network, which was an alliance of 50 organisations from a number of sectors including commercial, academic, Livery and non-profit, who were supportive of the transformation of the City into a cultural destination. Culture Mile needed to be more self-sustaining in the long term and it was hoped that this network, alongside a more entrepreneurial and mixed economy model, would help deliver that. A consultancy process was underway to assist with this.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

8. EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET UPDATE 2020/21

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the Education Board's Budget update 2020/21.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

9. GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding governor appointments.

Since the report was published, the Chair had resigned as Chair of the City of London Primary Academy Islington.

It was noted that Alderman Robert Howard had been appointed by the Chair, with the endorsement of the Education Board, to the vacancy on the City of London Academies Trust.

There was a brief discussion about the size of the Independent School Boards, which were deemed too large following the Tomlinson Review.

Ahead of every Court of Common Council Meeting, Court Members were encouraged to get in touch with the Education Unit if they were interested in sitting on one of the COLAT LGBs.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

10. EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding Education Activities at the City of London.

It was noted that the dates for the London Careers Festival 2021 had been moved to the 28-30 June and would be taking place virtually. The shift in date had been made to avoid the rescheduled public examinations.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

11. HOLIDAY MEAL SUPPORT TO CITY OF LONDON SPONSORED ACADEMIES

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding holiday meal support to City of London sponsored academies.

It was noted that since the report was published, the Government had announced the Winter Grant Scheme would run to March 2021 alongside the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. At the present time the City Corporation needed to wait until further information regarding the Local Authorities' role in delivering those schemes became clearer.

When asked about a possible cost implication in the delivery of these schemes, it was reported that there may be cost for the School if those eligible for free school meals were isolating, as during the isolation period the expectation was that they would receive an equivalent meal or food parcel delivered to them (as opposed to a food voucher). This might be covered by the additional amount per pupil received from the winter supplement.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

14. 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.

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020, were approved as a correct record.

16. NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Board's non-public outstanding actions.

17. STANDARDS SCRUTINY MEETINGS OF CITY SPONSORED ACADEMIES

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the standards scrutiny meetings of City Sponsored Academies.

18. **CITY PREMIUM GRANT EVALUATIONS 2019-20**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the City Premium Grant Evaluations 2019-20.

19. **REVIEW OF SIXTH FORM PROVISION**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding Sixth Form Provision.

RESOLVED, that this item was deferred to a future special meeting of the Board to be held as soon as possible.

20. **COLAT APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the COLAT Apprenticeship Academy.

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

There were no questions.

22. **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 1.16 pm

Chairman

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