

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CITY  
OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
Tuesday, 2 March 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors of  
the City of London School for Girls held via Microsoft Teams at 12.00 pm

**Present**

**Members:**

Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Chairman)  
Peter Bennett (Deputy Chairman)  
Randall Anderson  
Deputy Clare James  
Elizabeth Phillips

**Officers:**

Jenny Brown	- Headmistress
Katie Kerr	- Bursar
Kerry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	- Town Clerk's Department
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mary Ireland.

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

There were no declarations.

**3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the annual review of the Governance Committee's Terms of Reference and the following point was made:

- A Governor observed that the Committee's Terms of Reference were currently focused on its role in Governor skills and appointments but suggested it should also articulate the Committee's role in supporting the effectiveness of the Board of Governors. The Chairman confirmed that it was planned to develop the Terms of Reference over time as the direction of the Governance Committee became more defined. The Headmistress further highlighted the importance of reflection and self-review in developing the Committee's Terms of Reference.

**RESOLVED** – that:

- The Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee be approved for submission to the Board of Governors of the City of London School for final approval;
- The Committee's frequency of meetings be noted; and,
- The Committee undertake a formal review of the effectiveness of its Terms of Reference in Spring 2022.

4. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (BOARD OF GOVERNORS)**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the annual review of the Board of Governors' Terms of Reference and the following points were made:

- The Terms of Reference and composition of the Board of Governors should be considered in light of the recommendations of the Tomlinson Review of education funding and the Lisvaine Review of the governance of the City of London Corporation. For the 2021/22 municipal year, the Governance Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London School had recommended no changes be made whilst work was underway to review the implications of the Tomlinson and Lisvaine Reviews. In contrast, the Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School had requested the Policy and Resources Committee and Court of Common Council approve a reduction in its overall membership to eight Common Councillor Governors and six Co-opted Governors, which was in part a response to existing Governor vacancies.
- In discussion, the Chairman suggested no changes be recommended for the Terms of Reference and composition of the Board of Governors for the 2021/22 municipal year until more was known about the implications of the Tomlinson and Lisvaine Reviews. The implications of any changes to the School's governance structure would need to be considered in relation to new appointments or reappointments during the year, particularly if the composition of the Board of Governors was likely to change in the short to medium term. The Headmistress further highlighted the need to ensure the Board of Governors had the necessary skills in place to meet the challenges arising from anticipated changes in governance. The Deputy Chairman noted the growing emphasis on partnership working across the City of London Corporation's family of schools and suggested that consideration be given to how these links could be strengthened on the Board of Governors.

**RESOLVED** – that:

- The Board of Governors be recommended to approve its Terms of Reference for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee and Court of Common Council for final approval;

- The frequency of meetings of the Board of Governors be noted; and,
  - The current composition of the Board of Governors be noted.
5. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.
  6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**  
There was no other business.
  7. **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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.
  8. **CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GOVERNOR SKILLS AUDIT 2020/21**  
The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the City of London School for Girls' Governor Skills Audit 2020/21.
  9. **RACE EQUALITY REVIEW**  
The Committee considered a report of the Headmistress presenting the final report of the Race Equality Review.
  10. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.
  11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**  
There was one item of urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 12.49 pm**

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Chairman

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