

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 9 November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 9 November 2017 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst (Chairman)
Deputy John Bennett
Alderman Peter Estlin
Stuart Fraser
Caroline Haines

Christopher Hayward
The Lord Mountevans
Alderman William Russell
Ian Seaton
Roy Blackwell

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department
Stephanie Basten	-	Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Andrew Carter	-	Director of Community and Children's Services
Anne Bamford	-	Strategic Education and Skills Director
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Director of Academy Development
Jeanne Barnard	-	Education Policy Officer
Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces
Abigail Tinkler	-	Open Spaces Department
Sharon Ament	-	Chair of Culture Mile Learning, Museum of London
Sean Gregory	-	Barbican Centre
Sian Bird	-	Barbican Centre

In Attendance

Mark Emmerson	-	Chief Executive Officer, City of London Academies Trust
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1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Ann Holmes, Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, Helen Sanson and Veronica Wadley.

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

Alderman William Russell and John Bennett declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 9 (Review of Funding to the Guildhall School Trust and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for Scholarships) by virtue of being Governors of the Guildhall School.

Ian Seaton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 11 (Year 1 Review of Learning in Open Spaces) by virtue of being a Member of The City Bridge Trust.

Chris Hayward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 (City of London Academies Trust, Academies Development Programme – Update) by virtue of being Chairman of the City’s Planning and Transportation Committee, which would be considering the planning application for the City of London Primary Academy Islington.

Henry Colthurst declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 (SGOSS Funding Proposal) by virtue of being considered as a Board Member of SGOSS.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes and public summary of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 be approved as a correct record, and a list of outstanding actions noted.

Matters Arising

Sponsorship Agreement with City of London Academies Trust

The Chairman noted that a summary report on the respective responsibilities of the Trust and the Sponsor would come to a future meeting of the Board.

4. **EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Members considered an Education Activities Update report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services and the following points were made.

- A Member welcomed the activity around mental health outlined within the report and noted that this was an increasingly pressing issue for the City’s independent schools, and in the City of London School in particular. Another Member concurred, noting that the City of London School for Girls had recently adopted a Suicide Policy. In his view, the issue of mental health in schools would only become more pressing and therefore the City should aim to be ahead of the curve. Following further discussion, Members agreed that mental health should be approached in a unified way across the whole Family of City Schools, to include mental health on its outstanding actions list, and to review it in depth at the Board’s January 2018 Away Day.
- The Director of Community and Children’s Services noted that mental health was a safeguarding issue and was therefore tracked at officer level by the City’s Safeguarding Board. Nevertheless, he recognised the pressures placed on schools by mental health given the reduced resources available to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and reassured Members that the issue was being further reviewed by the Association of Directors of Community and Children’s Services.
- The Strategic Education and Skills Director noted that mental health was an issue where the whole spectrum of a school community – students,

parents, staff and governors - had to be involved. She added that Her Majesty's Inspectors had made clear that schools were expected to deliver balanced curricula that safeguarded pupils' mental health.

- The Chairman summarised discussion on the issue, noting that the Board was agreed that City Schools needed to do more to address the emerging issue of mental health which should be reviewed at the January 2018 Away Day with a view to allocating it as a strategic objective with associated budget; and that officers should formulate a pan-City School approach which should be brought back to the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED, that

- the report be noted;
- mental health be considered at the Committee Away Day in January with a view to considering how the City Corporation can provide unified and effective support across the City Corporation's family of schools.

5. DRAFT EDUCATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding a draft Education Strategy Action Plan and the following points were made.

- The Chairman noted that in light of discussion on the previous item, the issue of mental health should be added to the longer term strategic action plan as well as being discussed at the Board Away Day.
- A Member requested that future iterations of the Action Plan include details on budget allocations to individual items so that Members could make informed decisions on how best to allocate resources.

RESOLVED, that:

- the report be noted;
- Mental health be added to the Action Plan; and
- Future iterations of the Action Plan to include details on budget allocations against individual actions to better inform decision on resource allocation.

6. BUDGET UPDATE 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding a budget update for the 2017/18 financial year and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Chamberlain confirmed that the underspend outlined within the report was a genuine underspend, and

that the Board could apply to the Finance Committee to carry over the monies into the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

7. PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET FOR 2018/19

Members agreed to vary the order of items on the agenda so that Item 21 (Proposed Education Budget) 2018/19) was moved into public session and considered next.

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the proposed Education Budget for 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- The Chamberlain noted that the proposed budget involved an increase just over £1m based on an increase of the City Premium Grant to each full secondary and primary school in the City of London Academies Trust, composed of £250k per secondary and £100k per primary.
- The City of London Academies Trust Chief Executive Officer (COLAT CEO) noted that the City was currently the top performing sponsor in the United Kingdom and the proposed increase would allow the Trust to maintain that position. The interventions funded by the City Premium Grants would be mainly academic and pastoral, and resources would be targeted at the most disadvantaged children.
- A Member expressed three concerns with the proposal. First, he was not clear from where the additional £1m would be funded. Second, the report contained no details on the interventions that the City Premium Grants would secure. Third, if approved the additional funding ran the risk of the City being accused of utilising resources that were unavailable to other academy trusts or local authorities, which would be difficult to rationalise and defend in the absence of clear information on the source of the monies and the reasoning underpinning how and where they were applied.
- In response, the Chairman noted that the Away Day in January 2018 would provide an opportunity to align the Education Strategy with the proposed 2018/19 budget, and agreed with the fact that a significant increase in spend would potentially have reputational impact for the City that would have to be managed. Equally he felt that the Board should not be afraid to make clear that maintaining the City's premier status as an academy sponsor entailed the application of commensurate resources. The Chamberlain added that the proposed increase represented new spend that would have to be approved by the City's Policy and Resources Committee.
- A Member reiterated that he would welcome the submission of data to Members underpinning the proposed increase. In particular he queried how the figures of £250k and £100k for secondary and primary schools

were arrived at and sought a better understanding on what the funds might be spent on. The COLAT CEO noted that it would be possible to secure that data, but a complicating factor was that interventions each year were identified by each academy school on the basis of data that was published towards the end of the previous academic year and that this information was only available after the City had set its budget for the relevant year.

- The Director of Community and Children's Services noted that school interventions often had positive impact beyond the individual pupil and school community. For example, positive behaviours were often passed on to siblings and peers in the wider local community.
- The Chairman requested that a report be brought to the Board in March 2018 detailing how the 2017/18 City Premium Grant was spent and recommending how the 2018/19 CPG would be allocated by recipient schools.
- A Member noted that it was important for Board Members to act as ambassadors for the work of the City Family of Schools and requested that the Board be provided with concise briefing note so they were in a better position to articulate to other Members of the Court and more generally, the importance to the City Schools of items such as the City Premium Grant.

RESOLVED, that Members:

- Approve the proposed Education Budget for the 2018/19 Financial Year, subject to Policy and Resources Committee approval.
- Note the longer-term funding implications of any budget decisions, including further funding requirements in future years as new academies are opened.
- Receive a report be brought to the March 2018 Education Board explaining how the 2017/18 City Premium Grant was spent and to the July 2018 meeting explaining how the 2018/19 Grant would be allocated.
- Receive a briefing note setting out the advantages derived from the funding the City offers to the City's family of schools.

8. RISK REGISTERS - CITY OF LONDON EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND AND CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Community and Children's Services regarding risk registers for the City of London Educational Trust Fund (290840) and City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836) and the following points were made.

- The Chairman noted that in his view the risks facing the charities could be distilled into three key risks: whether the investments were

appropriately invested and were generating a sufficient return; whether the governance framework and policy to guide the application of funds were appropriate; and whether the charity's funds was being applied and used properly.

RESOLVED, that subject to comments made at the meeting, Members and Trustees agree that the register satisfactorily sets out the three key risks facing each Charity and that the appropriate measures are in place to mitigate those risks in each case, and that the resulting Risk Register for each charity be approved.

9. **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017 - THE CITY OF LONDON EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND AND CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY**

As the Committee of the Court of Common Council with delegated authority for the management of the City of London Educational Trust Fund (290840) and City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836), Members considered a report of the Chamberlain regarding the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017.

RESOLVED, that the Annual Report and Financial Statement for each charity be recommended for approval to the Finance Committee and the Court of Common Councils for the City Corporation as trustee of each charity.

10. **REVIEW OF FUNDING TO THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL TRUST AND THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Members considered a joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain which followed a decision of the Board on 20 July 2017 to support funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20, consideration of 2017/18 being omitted in error at that time.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Subject to the approval of Resource Allocation (Policy and Resources) Sub-Committee, agree to continue the City Corporation's payment of £30,000 to the School to fund scholarships for the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years subject to the School reporting back annually to the Education Board on the numbers of scholarships awarded and the impact of the grant.
- Agree to review the payment again after a further three years' funding in the context of the City Corporation's education priorities at the time.

11. **CULTURE MILE LEARNING - CASE FOR INVESTMENT 2017/18**

Members considered a report of the Chair of Culture Mile Learning.

RESOLVED, that Members recommend to Policy & Resources Committee the release of £120,000 to implement the City Corporation's Culture Mile Learning initiative.

12. YEAR 1 REVIEW OF LEARNING IN OPEN SPACES

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the three-year learning programme on the City's open spaces which has in the first year been part-funded from City's Cash and otherwise by a three-year tapered grant from City Bridge Trust (i.e. Bridge House Estates (1035628) in respect of which the City Corporation is trustee). Consistent with the remit of the Committee Members were asked to note the success of the learning programme in the first year of delivery and to support its continued delivery into years 2 and 3 of the current funding, that support already having been forthcoming by the relevant spending committees. Members were also asked to note the risks to the programme should external funding not be forthcoming from external sources to meet the funding gap arising from the reduction in funding from City Bridge Trust over years 2 and 3.

A Member noted that it was the practice of City Bridge Trust, as with most grant funders, to award grants over more than one year on a tapered basis to help address reliance upon that funding and to promote the longer-term sustainability of the funded activities by encouraging recipients to develop relationships with other funders.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

13. CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST, ACADEMIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the Academy Development Programme for the City of London Academies Trust and the following points were made.

- The Director of Academy Development noted that three academies had joined the Trust in September 2017 and a further two were expected to join prior to Christmas 2017 – Newham Collegiate Sixth and Highbury Grove.
- The Director of Academy Development next provided Members with a capital build update. He noted that the contractor for Galleywall Primary had been underperforming but that the issues had been addressed at present. The planning application for the City of London Primary Academy Islington would be submitted to Planning Committee in Islington on 5 December 2017 and the City of London on 12 December 2017. The Director noted that the application involved a 14-storey residential building plus school on a constrained site, and in planning terms the exceptional benefit of the proposal was clear.
- There was discussion regarding the expansion of the Trust over the past year, that the City and the Trust were consequently in a strong position to show that resources were fully focused on achieving success with the existing schools within the Trust and in establishing the Trust's cost-effective operation with appropriate economies of scale. A Member

noted that there was a need to take a strong policy position should the City be pressed to increase the number of schools it sponsors through the Trust beyond the threshold of 12 which had already been agreed if the Trust was to manage expectations of Members and achieve excellence in all its schools. It was noted that the City can provide support in many ways other than by direct sponsorship, whether by supporting the Trust to be a model of outstanding achievement, or by the Trust supporting other schools within their local communities, etc. The Chairman noted, having regard to the benefits of collaboration, that the Sponsor and Trust's relationship with both of the City's co-sponsored academies (and their co-sponsors) would also benefit from review.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note that three City academies opened in September 2017, increasing the number of sole sponsored academies from three to six.
- Note the progress being made on two further two academies will be joining City of London Academies Trust by the end of the calendar year, bringing the total of sole sponsored academies to eight.
- Note the progress of the capital programmes for these academies.
- Agree that the arrangements with the City's co-sponsored academy trusts be reviewed.

14. CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST (04504128) GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding City of London Academies Trust (04504128) governor appointments.

In response to a question from a Member it was confirmed that Mr Blackwell's intended resignation from the Education Board did not require his resignation from the Trust Board of Directors, Mr Blackwell having been appointed by the City Corporation as one of its sponsor Directors.

RESOLVED, that Members:

- Approve the appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the City of London Academy Highgate Hill Local Governing Body.
- Note that in approving the appointment of Roy Blackwell as Chairman of the Highgate Hill Local Governing Body the Trust Board has varied the standard Local Governing Body Terms of Reference to allow for eight appointments by the Trust Board rather than seven in this case, as it was considered to be in the best interests of the school.

- Note the current membership of the City Corporation's schools' governing bodies.

15. SGOSS FUNDING PROPOSAL AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY CORPORATION'S NOMINATION TO SGOSS'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding a SGOSS Funding proposal and proposed changes to the City Corporation's nomination to SGOSS's Board of Trustees and company membership and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Education Policy Officer noted that the funds for the proposal were included within the Education Budget's local risk budget line for strategic partnerships.
- A Member noted that many e-learning modules were freely available to school governing bodies and requested that SGOSS be asked to provide more detail on the type of modules they planned to create using City monies.

RESOLVED, that Members:

- Agree to recommend to the Outside Bodies Sub-Committee, should SGOSS formally offer a right of nomination to the City Corporation, that the nominee should be an elected Member currently serving on the Education Board, whose nomination would require the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee
- Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, subject to appropriate due diligence on SGOSS's current activities and to the approval of the Board's budget by Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, to agree to fund SGOSS to the sum of £24,340 from City's Cash to promote governor led employability initiatives within schools in London per its proposal

16. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the City of London Corporation's Apprenticeship Programme.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

17. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION ADULT LEARNING SERVICE

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the City of London Corporation's Adult Learning Service. The Strategic Education and Skills Director noted that consideration was being given to introducing a pathway offer to the Adult Learning Service going forward.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
Education Policy Institute – *Entries to Arts Subjects at Key Stage 4*

Members noted that the EPI report that was part-funded by the Board had been released in September 2017. The Chairman added that Members would have an opportunity to review the report further at their March 2018 meeting.

20. **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.

21. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 be approved as a correct record.

22. **CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST - AMENDMENT OF SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the City of London Academies Trust – Amendment of Scheme of Delegations.

RESOLVED, that the amendments be approved.

Deputy John Bennett left at this point of the meeting.

23. **GOVERNANCE OF SOUTHWARK ACADEMIES**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the governance of the City of London Academies Trust's Southwark academies.

RESOLVED, that the proposed governance changes be supported for a trial period.

24. **UN-VALIDATED PROGRESS DATA FOR CITY SCHOOLS 2017**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding Un-validated progress data for City Schools 2017.

RECEIVED.

Chris Hayward left at this point of the meeting.

25. **SAFEGUARDING**

The Strategic Education and Skills Director was heard regarding safeguarding matters.

At this point of the meeting, two hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, Member agreed to extend the meeting in line with Standing Order 40.

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

There were no questions.

27. 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 5.05 pm

Chairman

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