

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 8 March 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 8 March 2018 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst (Chairman)	Alderman William Russell
Ann Holmes (Deputy Chairman)	Ian Seaton
Deputy John Bennett	Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Peter Estlin	Helen Sanson
Stuart Fraser	Veronica Wadley
Alderman The Lord Mountevans	Deborah Knight (from Item 4)

In Attendance

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

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	-	Town Clerk's Department
Jack Joslin	-	Central Grants Team
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Emily Rimington	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Anne Bamford	-	Education, Culture and Skills Director
Jeanne Barnard	-	Community and Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Community and Children's Services
Sean Gregory	-	Barbican Centre

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines, Chris Hayward, Deputy Catherine McGuinness and Tim Campbell.

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

There were no declarations.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION BOARD

The Chairman was heard regarding the proposed co-option of Deborah Knight to the Education Board. He referred Members to the note of the inquorate meeting of the Nominations Sub (Education Board) Committee held on 15 February 2018 at Item 23 at which Ms Knight's skills and experience had been reviewed against the wider current skills of the Board as well as its future needs

RESOLVED, that Deborah Knight be co-opted as a Member of the Education Board for a term ending July 2022.

Deborah Knight joined the meeting at this point.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF COMPANY MEMBER AND TRUSTEE OF THE CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST**

The Chairman was heard regarding the appointment of a Company Member and Sponsor Trustee for the City of London Academies Trust in his stead, given he was unable to take up those roles given the potential conflicts arising from his role with the Mossbourne Federation.

The Chairman referred Members to the note of the inquorate meeting of the Nominations Sub (Education Board) Committee held on 15 February 2018 at Item 23 at which a skills audit submitted by Deputy Clare James had been submitted for consideration. The Chairman recommended Deputy James whom in his view and that of the prior meeting was a strong candidate for appointment given her experience as elected member of the City of London Corporation with sound knowledge of its corporate governance structures and experience of the City's role in education, not least as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls.

RESOLVED, that Deputy Clare James be appointed as Company Member and Sponsor Trustee of the City of London Academies Trust in the room of Henry Colthurst, for a term equivalent to Henry Colthurst's service as Chairman of the Education Board.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Academies Development Programme Update

The Director of Academy Development noted that Newham Collegiate Sixth had become a City of London Academy on 1 January 2018 and Highbury Grove had become a City of London Academy on 1 December 2017. He added that the City had 'parted ways' with the contractor for Galleywall Primary capital build, and the City was in the process of procuring a new contractor. An Early Works programme is also being put in place to ensure sufficient areas of the school will be ready by September 2018.

SGOSS Funding

The Chairman noted that SGOSS had been renamed Governors for Schools (GFS) and that he had been appointed to the GFS Board. In response to a question from a Member, he agreed that there was huge scope to align the work of the GFS with the work undertaken in education by the Livery as well as EDO with employers.

6. **MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION CHARITY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2017**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting of the Education Charity Sub (Education Board) Committee meeting held on 21 November 2017 were received.

7. **NOTE OF THE INQUORATE MEETING OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

The public note and summary of the inquorate meeting of the Nominations Sub (Education Board) Committee meeting held on 15 February 2018 was received.

8. **REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND AND THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY**

Members considered a report of the Chief Grants Officer regarding revised eligibility criteria for the City Educational Trust Fund and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity.

RESOLVED, that Members

- approve the amended eligibility criteria for the Charities;
- approve the dates for the next deadline of the Education and Employment theme of the Central Grants Programme.

9. **SCOPING THEMES FOR THE EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SKILLS STRATEGY**

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding scoping themes for the Education, Culture and Skills Strategy and the following points were made.

- The Strategic Education, Culture and Skills Director noted that factors underpinning the emerging themes included the desire to encompass the entire Family of City Schools, including co-sponsored academies and schools with which the City had a shared heritage; being more explicit regarding ethos of a City School; going above and beyond Ofsted Outstanding; improving links between school, employment and lifelong learning; ensuring the City's cultural offer was meaningful and accessible; clarifying the governance of the City's education and governance offer; and ensuring the City played its part in ensuring young people were equipped with skills for the future.
- A Member requested that three observations be fed into the emerging themes. First, associated schools such as Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School should be factored into the Family of Schools and informed of how they could collaborate more closely with the City's overall education offer. Second, thought should be given to how technology and digitisation could be factored into the cultural strand, including collaboration with City tech companies. Third, the emerging strategy should acknowledge that education was a crowded space and the City's approach be tailored accordingly – the various actors should be identified and partnerships with them developed. Overall, the strategy should harness the convening power of the City of London Corporation.
- A Member commented that the City's approach to education should seek to broaden equality of opportunity for all pupils.

- A Member requested that the language around Culture Mile Learning be made more consistent. He also noted that the Guildhall School of Music and Drama had started developing a strong digital skills offering.
- A Member commented that the final iteration of the strategy should recognise synergies between the three strands of education, culture and skills.
- A Member commented that the City should be clear how it expected culture to be embedded in schools particularly whether the City should simply set guidelines or expect its Family of Schools to deliver specific cultural outcomes.
- A Member noted that the strategy should be in harmony with the City's wider work on social mobility and ensure that disadvantaged pupils who performed well academically were mentored to achieve their full potential.
- A Member suggested that one or more Education Board Members could be identified to lead on each strand of the strategy relevant to their particular skills and experience, as had been discussed at earlier meetings of the Board, to provide officers with support and input in delivery of those workstreams between meetings.

10. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the annual review of the Board's terms of reference and the following points were made.

- Members agreed that the Board should meet on six occasions per year, consisting of five formal meetings, held soon after Court, and an annual Board Away Day.
- Members agreed that the commentary on the Family of Schools could be updated to reflect the extended interpretation of Family Schools.

RESOLVED, that

- the terms of reference and frequency of meetings be agreed as per comments made by Members.
- any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

11. **REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding action taken since the last meeting.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

12. ACADEMY EXPANSION PROGRAMME - SHOREDITCH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL DUE DILIGENCE REPORT

Members agreed to vary the order of items on the agenda so that Item 21 (Academy Expansion Programme – Shoreditch Park Primary School Due Diligence) be considered next.

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

The Board returned to public session at the conclusion of discussion of this item of business.

13. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CITY ACADEMIES UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding additional funding for City academies and the following points were made.

- In response to question, the Strategic Education, Culture and Skills Director replied that the funding was for specific programmes and that a full evaluation of funding outcomes would be submitted to the Board in September 2018.
- A Member expressed the hope that music programmes made available by the additional funding should promote genuine progress in music, rather than simply provide taster sessions.

14. EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

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

- In response to a question, the Education Policy Officer noted that the CISI Fundamentals of Finance Level 2 Course was in its pilot year and had the potential to be expanded next year subject to evaluation.

15. EDUCATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN WITH BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding the Education Strategy Action Plan with Budget Allocations and the following points were made.

- The Chairman welcomed the format of the report but suggested that the template outlining budget allocations, between strategic strands could be amended to make it clearer and user friendly. Members agreed. The Chairman agreed to meet with the Strategic Education, Culture and Skills Director outside of the meeting to discuss possible presentational improvements ahead of future reporting to the Board.

- In response to a comment from a Member regarding the overall education spending envelope of the City of London Corporation, the Strategic Education, Culture and Skills Director agreed that a full assessment of the funding envelope was an overdue item of work largely due to its complexity – any assessment would also need to incorporate the in-kind work done by the City. Members requested that this item of work be added to the Board’s Actions Sheet going forward.

16. EDUCATION BUDGET UPDATE FOR 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members considered an update report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding the budget for the 2017/18 financial year.

17. CULTURE MILE LEARNING UPDATE

Members considered a joint update report of the Managing Director, Barbican Centre and Managing Director, Guildhall School of Music and Drama regarding Culture Mile Learning.

18. CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST (04504128) GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding appointment of governors to the City of London Academies Trust (04504128).

19. ROLES OF THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION AS SPONSOR AND CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST (04504128)

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding the Roles of the City of London Corporation as Sponsor and City of London Academies Trust (04504128) and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Comptroller and City Solicitor clarified that the Sponsor was only consulted on (but otherwise involved in the appointment process for) the appointment of the Chief Executive of the City of London Academies Trust as the appointment itself was a matter for the Trustees of the Trust itself.
- It was also noted that the company members of the City of London Academies Trust retained rights to remove the Trustees/Directors of the company.

**20. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD
Role of Governors in City of London Academy Capital Programmes**

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Academy Development agreed to bring a report to a future meeting of the Board regarding the role of governors in City of London Academy Capital Programmes.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

22. **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.
23. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 be approved as a correct record.
24. **NON-PUBLIC NOTE OF THE INQUORATE MEETING OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018**
RESOLVED, that the non-public note of the inquorate meeting of the Nominations Sub (Education Board) Committee meeting held on 15 February 2018 be received.
25. **MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION UPDATE**
Members considered an update report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding mental health provision in the Family of City Schools.
- Aldermen The Lord Mountevans, Estlin and Russell left at this point of the meeting.*
26. **CITY OF LONDON SCHOOLS EXAMINATION RESULTS AND TARGETS**
Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding City of London Schools examination results and targets.
27. **CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY SCHOOLS SCRUTINY MEETINGS**
Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services regarding City of London Academy Schools Scrutiny Meetings.
28. **CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OUTREACH REPORT**
Members considered a report of the Headmistress of the City of London School for Girls regarding Outreach.
29. **OUTREACH REPORT - CITY OF LONDON FREEMEN’S SCHOOL**
Members considered a report of the Headmaster of the City of London Freemen’s School regarding Outreach.
30. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions.
31. **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 4.52 pm

Chairman

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