

EDUCATION BOARD

Tuesday, 24 June 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst	Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Virginia Rounding
Alderman Peter Estlin	Alderman William Russell
Alderman Jeffrey Evans	Ian Seaton
Stuart Fraser	

In Attendance:

Roy Blackwell (United Westminster Schools Trust)
Jude Chin
(City of London Academy Governor)
David Taylor
(Livery Schools Link)

Officers:

Peter Lisley	Town Clerk's Department
Alistair MacLellan	Town Clerk's Department
Georgina Denis	Town Clerk's Department
David Pack	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Community & Children's Services
Angela Murphy	Community & Children's Services
Joshua Burton	Community & Children's Services
Fraser Swift	Head of Learning, Museum of London

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Deputy John Bennett and Mr Philip Woodhouse.

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

Members of the Education Board made the following declarations under the code of conduct in respect items on the agenda:

Deputy John Bennett

Board of Governors City of London Freeman's School

Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Henry Colthurst
The Worshipful Company of Grocers

Revd Dr Martin Dudley
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls

Alderman Peter Estlin
Treasurer, Bridewell Royal Hospital - King Edward's School, Witley

Alderman Jeffrey Evans
Board of Governors City of London Academy – Islington

Stuart Fraser
Board of Governors City of London Freeman’s School
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors City of London School

Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Board of Governors City of London Academy – Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
United Westminster Schools Foundation
Board of Governors Christ's Hospital

Virginia Rounding
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors City of London Academy – Hackney

Alderman William Russell
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Board of Governors Knightsbridge Schools International

Ian Seaton
Board of Governors City of London School
Board of Governors Bridewell Royal Hospital
Board of Governors Christ's Hospital

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Education Board received a report of the Town Clerk outlining its terms of reference.

RESOLVED – That, the Education Board note its terms of reference.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF EDUCATION BOARD EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Education Board received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the appointment of external representatives to the Board. Amended recommendations were tabled at the meeting.

The Board reviewed the expressions of interest statements, experience and skill set of three external candidates. As all three candidates were previous

members of the Education Strategy Working Party, after extensive debate Board Members agreed all three candidates should be appointed on a short term basis to provide a level of consistency at the early stages of the Education Boards implementation of the strategy.

With regards to the skill set of the Education Board, Members discussed the requirement of an Education Board skills audit. Members agreed that an investigation of the Board's skill set was required to assess adequately what extra skills should be provided by external representatives going forward, and that a proper analysis take place before December when the temporary appointments would cease.

RESOLVED – That,

- David Taylor, Roy Blackwell and Jude Chin be appointed to the Education Board as External Representatives for terms of 6 months.
- An Education Board skills audit be conducted to inform the appointment of future external representatives.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Board proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29.

The Town Clerk read a list of those Governors eligible to stand and Deputy Catherine McGuinness, being the only Member expressing willingness to serve as Chairman, was duly elected.

RESOLVED - That Deputy Catherine McGuinness be duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. A list of Members eligible to stand was read, and Dr Martin Dudley and Mr Henry Colthurst declared their willingness to serve, if elected.

A ballot having been taken, votes were cast as follows:-

Dr Martin Dudley	6 votes
Mr Henry Colthurst	6 votes

As both Members received an equal number of votes under Standing Order 29(c) the Chairman, with the consent of the candidates and the Board, took the decision by lot. Mr Henry Colthurst was picked from the two candidates and therefore duly elected Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED - That Mr Henry Colthurst be duly elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

7. BACKGROUND TO THE EDUCATION STRATEGY AND EDUCATION BOARD

The Education Board received a report of the Town Clerk which provided Members with background information on the City of London Corporation Education Strategy and how it was to be implemented by the Education Board.

The Board were asked to note the details of the Strategy and to note that as Members of the Board their role would involve working on all 5 strands of the Strategy, which included;

- promoting and supporting excellent education and access to higher education;
- striving for excellence in the City schools;
- inspiring children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities;
- promoting an effective transition from education to employment;
- exploring opportunities to expand the City's education portfolio and influence in education throughout London.

RESOLVED – That, the Board note the contents of the report.

8. GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO CITY ACADEMY HACKNEY, CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY SOUTHWARK AND PRIOR WESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk regarding Governor appointments to The City Academy, Hackney, City of London Academy Southwark and Prior Weston Primary School.

The report provided the supporting statements of two external candidates for governor vacancies at the City of London Academy Southwark, as well as details regarding the appointment of Nigel Challis CC to The City Academy, Hackney.

The Board were asked to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to find and recommend a candidate for the vacancy of an external governor to The City Academy, Hackney. The Board were also asked to delegate authority to find and recommend a candidate for the Member vacancy to the Board of Governors for Prior Weston Primary School. The recommendations would go to the Court of Common Council for appointment in September 2014.

Members were informed by the Policy Officer that the supporting statement from Lucas Green for the appointment to the City of London Academy Southwark had been withdrawn. The Board were therefore asked to endorse only Simon Atkinson's candidacy to the Court of Common Council.

RESOLVED – That the Board:

- Endorse the proposed arrangement whereby the five City of London Corporation Governors at The City Academy, Hackney be composed of at least one member of the Court of Common Council, and any four additional members.
- Recommend that the Court of Common Council approve the appointment of Nigel Challis CC as a Governor at The City Academy, Hackney.
- Grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to submit a candidate for the fifth governor vacancy at The City Academy, Hackney to the Court of Common Council.
- Recommend that the Court of Common Council appoint Simon Atkinson as a Governor of the City of London Academy Southwark.
- Grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to submit a candidate for the governor vacancy at Prior Weston Primary School to the Court of Common Council for appointment.

9. EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE AND CITY OF LONDON EDUCATION INITIATIVE FUND PROPOSALS

The Board received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services for decision. The report provided the Board with an update on the progress made in implementing the Education Strategy.

The Education Strategy Advisor introduced the work of the Education Unit and the establishment of the Headteachers' Forum and Chairs of Governors' Forum. The Education Strategy Advisor asked the Board to note that paragraph 8 should be amended to read that, "accountability to the Education Board therefore exists through the Chairs of Governors' Forum". The Board asked whether Headteachers/Chairs of all schools in the City family would be invited to attend the Forums. The Education Strategy Advisor noted that in the first instance only academies were invited but it was hoped that representatives of all schools would take part in future Forums.

Following the update Members discussed issues regarding safeguarding training arrangements for school Governors. The Education Strategy Advisor assured the Board that it was a priority area for the Education Unit and plans were in place to conduct a Governors audit which would inform Officers of which Governors have up to date training and from which provider. It was suggested that an online training course should be offered to all Governors to ensure they are able to take the training at a convenient time.

A Board Member suggested that Christ's Hospital Board of Governors should be consulted with regards to their safeguarding and pastoral care arrangements as much could be learned from their input. A Board Member also suggested that one Governor per Board should receive more detailed child protection training and be appointed as the safeguarding representative for the Board. A Member also detailed the importance of all schools providing written confirmation that they had read the new safeguarding regulations.

Following the discussion on safeguarding the Chairman briefed the Board on the funding arrangements proposed in the report. The Board were informed that each City Academy was allocated a grant of £150,000 and Redriff Primary School a grant of £50,000. The Education Strategy Advisor explained that the report included individual proposals from Redriff Primary School, City of London Academy Southwark, City of London Academy Islington, and The City Academy Hackney, each provided detailed plans for how they would use the money granted by the Education Board. The Education Strategy Advisor noted that where schools had submitted funding proposals that were in excess of the allocated grant, the school would be responsible for altering the proposal to reflect the correct grant. The Education Strategy Advisor informed the Board that she highly recommended all of the proposals for funding.

A number of Board Members asked whether schools would receive an annual grant, as some proposals mentioned the need for recurring expenditure. The Education Strategy Advisor noted schools were informed that the grants were additional money and not an indication regarding how much funding they can expect in future years. The Chairman noted that schools should be given guarantees regarding how much funding they can expect in future years. The Director of Communities and Children's Services informed the Board that it was in the gift of the Board to grant recurring funding. The Education Strategy Advisor also asked the Board to note that there was also funding commitments for other Education Strategy themes to address.

The Assistant Town Clerk suggested that the Board consider the future process for assessing proposals and the options available, such as committing to giving £150,000 each year, or phasing the funding in order to align it with other Strategy streams. The Board also discussed whether grant applications should be received by the Education Board throughout the year, or if it would be best to have two grant giving meetings per year.

RESOLVED – That,

- The Board note the contents of the report.
- The Board grant £50,000 to Redriff Primary School to enhance the school playground as detailed in their proposal.
- The Board grant the City of London Academy Southwark £150,000 for raising the standard of Teaching and Learning and Attainment in Maths, as detailed in their proposal.
- The Board grant the City of London Academy Islington £150,000 for the 5 activities detailed in their proposal, namely:
 - developing ICT across the school through the purchase of tablets, lap tops and storage trolleys;
 - accessing an external Pastoral Care programme;
 - developing music provision and providing instruments for an orchestra;
 - providing alternative provision for those unable to access the full curriculum; and
 - developing ICT in Science.

- The Board grant The City Academy, Hackney £150,000 for the 4 activities detailed in their proposal, namely:
 - Saturday and holiday provision;
 - lap tops for 6th form students beginning in September;
 - enhancing music technology; and
 - overseas trips to raise the standards in Modern Foreign Languages and increase the outcomes in EBACC.

10. **OUTREACH FORUM PROPOSALS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Fraser Swift, Head of Learning at Museum of London to the meeting. Mr Swift introduced the report of the Town Clerk regarding Outreach Forum proposals. The Board heard the Outreach Forum had been meeting since autumn 2013, the meetings were positive and productive and involved collaboration across a number of sectors. Mr Swift informed the Board that the Forum had focused on assessing the collective strength of all parties involved, to find methods by which they could work together to benefit schools across London.

The four proposed initiatives of the Outreach Forum were:

- A three year school visits fund to provide schools with grants of up to £300 to help them visit the City; a fund which would involve a simple and quick application process.
- A teacher training programme with the working title 'Hard Education' to help teachers tackle difficult subjects such as homophobia, racism and gang culture.
- The creation of a new website to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London (to be launched September 2016).
- A Headteachers event to promote the other three initiatives.

Mr Swift explained that the Forum was requesting from the Board support and financial assistance in implementing the initiatives. The Chairman explained that the Outreach Forum and its initiatives were appropriate to be funded by the Education Board and expressed her support; other Members of the Board also expressed their support for the proposals. The Chairman informed Mr Swift that the Education Board was not capable of contributing to the initiatives immediately, but would support an application to the Policy Initiative Fund for funding the proposals.

RESOLVED – That, the Education Board

- note the contents of the report,
- endorse the proposals for the development of coordinated programmes as outlined in the proposal section of the report,
- endorse the Forum's request for funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund, and
- review the Education Boards financial assistance of the Outreach Forum initiatives once resources are made available.

11. **CITY UNIVERSITY MATHS PROJECT - RELEASE OF TWO YEAR FUNDING**

The Education Board received for information a report of the Town Clerk regarding the City University Maths Project. The Board reviewed an annual evaluation report of the projects progress with the City of London Academy Islington. The report was for the approval of year 2 funding. Chairman informed the Board that the Finance Committee had approved the release of the year 2 funding and the responsibility for funding Year 3 of the Project had passed to the Education Board.

A Member queried why the evaluation report did not mention whether or not the pupils grades in mathematics had improved. The Education Strategy Advisor informed the Board that the pupil's test results had been sent by the City of London Academy Islington and future evaluation reports would include test scores as part of the outcomes of the project.

RESOLVED – That the Education Board note the contents of the City University Maths Project report.

12. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Members discussed the frequency of which Education Board meetings should take place. The Chairman informed the Board that the Education Board Court report suggested the Board meet six times per year. The Chairman also advised that a meeting in July would not be possible for the present year.

A Member suggested that the Board met more frequently than 6 times per year in the first year, as there would be an increased amount of work involved to establish the Education Board. The rest of the Education Board agreed and it was decided that possible meeting dates would be investigated; a proposed meeting schedule would then be circulated to Members by email.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk's Department would circulate a proposed 2014/15 Education Board meeting schedule.

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions relating to the work of the Board.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

15. **NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no non-public questions.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no non-public urgent business.

The meeting closed at 3.07 pm

Chairman

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