

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 3 December 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 3 December 2015 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Alderman William Russell
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Ian Seaton
Alderman Peter Estlin	Philip Woodhouse
Christopher Hayward	Helen Sanson
Virginia Rounding	David Taylor

Officers:

Peter Lisle	- Assistant Town Clerk
Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Liz Skelcher	- Economic Development Office
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Office
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Emily Rimington	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Ade Adetosoye	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Mark Emmerson	- Education Strategy Director
Gerald Mehrstens	- Community & Children's Services
Joshua Burton	- Community & Children's Services
Tizzy Keller	- Community & Children's Services
Sarah Fletcher	- Headteacher, City of London School
Ena Harrop	- Headteacher, City of London School for Girls
Sharon Ament	- Director of the Museum of London

Observing:

William Campbell-Taylor CC

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Henry Colthurst, Deputy John Bennett, Stuart Fraser, Roy Blackwell and Tim Campbell.

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

Reverend Dr Martin Dudley
City of London Academy Islington

Alderman Peter Estlin

Treasurer, Bridewell Royal Hospital - King Edward's School, Witley
Barclays LifeSkills, Senior Advisor
Guildhall Advisory Board (Business & Law Faculty of City University)

The Worshipful Company of International Bankers

Christopher Hayward

Member of the Court of Governors – Christ’s Hospital
Governor – Bridewell Royal Hospital
Governor – City of London School for Girls
Member of the Court of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

Deputy Catherine McGuinness

Board of Governors of The City Academy, Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
United Westminster Schools Foundation
Board of School Governors and Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital
Barbican Centre Board
Guildhall School Development Fund
The Worshipful Company of Educators

Virginia Rounding

Board of Governors of The City Academy Hackney

Alderman William Russell

Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Board of Governors of Knightsbridge Schools International
Board of Governors Knightsbridge School
Court of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers
Trustee of Place2Be

Helen Sanson

Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership

Ian Seaton

Board of Governors City of London Freeman’s School
Board of Governors City of London School
Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors Bridewell Royal Hospital
Donation Governor Christ's Hospital

David Taylor

Board of Governors St Lawrence College, Ramsgate
Board of Governors Sutton Valence School
Board of Governors Queen Anne’s School, Caversham
Vice Chair of AGBIS

Philip Woodhouse

Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman’s School
Board of Mossbourne Federation
Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy, Hackney
Governor, Oundle School
Chairman of Governors of Wellesley House School

Member of the Court of Worshipful Company of Grocers

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were approved as a correct record, subject to a typographical error in item 11 (Education and Adoption Bill) being corrected.

Matters Arising

Sir John Cass Foundation

The Director of Community and Children's Services confirmed that little had been made on the proposal to develop Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to a two-form entry school, following a decision at the Sir John Cass's Foundation Board held in October 2015 once again to refuse to grant a licence in order for the school to expand.. The Director also stated that in the short term the City has requested of the school governing body to consider operating a bulge Reception class in September 2016, given early indications that the change in the school's Admissions Policy, adding an Admissions Priority Area criterion covering the whole of the City, has generated an even greater interest from City parents in the school. A final decision will be made when applications for Reception closes in January 2016.

3.1 **Outstanding Actions**

A list of outstanding actions was received.

Funding for Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School Witley

Members noted that the funding provision provided by the City of London Corporation to Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School Witley would come up for renewal in 2016. Moreover under current arrangements King Edward's School Witley received its City Corporation funding from the Finance Grants Sub Committee's City's Cash, a source of funding affected by the outcome of the City of London Corporation Grants Review.

Members, mindful of the historic connection between those schools and the City of London Corporation; the excellent educational outcomes arising from both schools; and the schools' role in the wider City Family of Schools, suggested first that, unless an alternative source of funding was identified within existing resource allocations, that the monies for the ongoing support of both Christ's Hospital and King Edward's School Witley be first allocated from the existing City's Cash allocation, before that money was then allocated to a grant review 'theme'. Second, that should this first option not prove practicable then nevertheless the City of London Corporation should identify a requisite source of funding with which to continue to support the schools, assuming that this is agreed by members at the next review.

Members concluded discussion by requesting that the Board be involved, alongside the Policy and Resources Committee, in the decision-making process for the next round of City of London Corporation support for the two schools.

RESOLVED – that the Board request that the Policy and Resources Committee agree,

- In the expectation that the City would wish to continue supporting both schools at their next review, funding be allocated from the existing City Cash funding envelope or a suitable alternative;
- The Education Board be consulted during the review of City of London Corporation funding for both schools.

4. CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL VISITS FUND

The Director of the Museum of London updated the Board on the recently launched City of London School Visits Fund. So far 1,712 pupils had benefited from the fund, of which £10,000 had been committed. 35 schools had applied to the fund, including 21 maintained schools, 8 academies, 5 special schools and 1 free school. The average pupil premium entitlement among applicant schools was 43%. Tower Bridge was proving the most popular venue for visits, followed by the Museum of London.

In response to a request, the Director agreed to circulate a written note after the meeting.

5. EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE

The Board considered an update report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the Education Strategy and the following comments were made.

- The Chairman noted that the forthcoming City Schools Concert was on 26 January 2016.
- The City Schools Prefects' Dinner on 12 November had been a success, and longer notice would be given to Education Board members to enable more to be present at future such events to maximise the positive outcomes. Other City stakeholders such as Innovate Finance could be included.
- A member noted the recent speech by the Chief Economist of the Bank of England at the TUC regarding the impact of globalisation and technology on the future of employment, the transcript of which would be circulated after the meeting.
- The City Corporation could usefully engage with youth clubs to explore ways in which to build 'soft skills' in pupils of the City Schools.

6. EDUCATION STRATEGY REFRESH

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the Education Strategy Refresh and the following comments were made.

- There was potential for higher education and the Livery to feature more in the refreshed strategy.

- Overall the refresh was a good synthesis of the City Corporation's education activity but it arguably lacked aspiration or sense of strategic direction. For example, it did not anticipate the growing importance of digital skills.
- An informal ideas session involving members and officers to inform the final draft of the strategy would be useful before it came back to the Board for final approval in the New Year.

RESOLVED, that

- Subject to the comments of the Board, the refreshed Education Strategy and the further consultation with relevant Committees be endorsed.

7. GOVERNANCE OF SOLE SPONSORED ACADEMIES

The Board considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the governance of the City's sole sponsored academies. The Chairman placed on record her appreciation for the support of the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the City of London Academies Southwark in developing these proposals.

RESOLVED, that the following recommendations be put to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council for approval.

1. The City of London will have one legal entity to continue to deliver the academies for which it is sole-sponsor and that this entity should be the City of London Academies (Southwark) ("Southwark MAT");
2. The City of London Primary Academy Islington (COLPAI) undertaking should be transferred to Southwark MAT and the COLPAI company be wound up and this recommendation will be made to the members of that company, who are all City Corporation officers and elected Members;
3. Consistent with (1) above the City Corporation would recommend to the Southwark MAT that the company change its name to the "City of London Academies" and that the registered office be transferred to the Guildhall;
4. The City Corporation as sponsor exercises its rights to make the following changes to the Southwark MAT's company members –
 - a. by replacing the current members (whether by resignation or removal); and
 - b. to appoint up to four new members of the company, to be the Chairman and a Deputy Chairman of the Policy Committee, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board.

5. It be recommended to the members of the company, once appointed under 4 (b) above, that they adopt new Articles of Association effective on a named date (“the transition date”) which reflect the current Department for Education (DfE) model multi-academy trust (MAT) Articles of Association and which provide for a smaller Board of Directors/Trustees which will be responsible for the strategic direction of the company (and which provide the City Corporation as sponsor with the right to appoint and to remove up to six Directors/Trustees, the City Corporation having majority appointment rights), which Board will hold the ultimate legal accountability for the educational outcomes of the company’s academies, the management of its finances and all regulatory compliance;
6. Subject to the company members adopting new Articles of Association as proposed, that at the transition date –
 - a. the City Corporation agree to be appointed as a corporate member of the company and to appoint the Town Clerk (and his representatives appointed under the City Corporation’s Officer Scheme of Delegations) to be its authorised representative(s) for that purpose;
 - b. the existing Board of Directors be removed; and
 - c. the City Corporation appoint up to six Directors/Trustees to consist of two Directors/Trustees nominated by the Policy Committee, two Directors/Trustees nominated by the Education Board, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board;
7. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Director of Community and Children’s Services and the Comptroller and City Solicitor, to take any other decisions relating to the above (including any negotiations with the Department for Education) necessary to implement the proposal that the City have one academy trust company to deliver its sole-sponsored academies.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION SPONSOR GOVERNOR - CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON**

The Board considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk on the appointment of a City of London Corporation member to the Board of Governors of the City of London Academy Islington (COLAI).

RESOLVED, that

- Henry Colthurst CC be appointed as City of London Corporation sponsor governor of COLAI for a term of four years, to commence on the date that the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor’s resignation as sponsor governor is confirmed.

9. **APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY SOUTHWARK LOCAL GOVERNING BODY**

The Board considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk on the appointment of governors to the local governing body of the City of London Academy Southwark.

RESOLVED, that

- The fact that current arrangements for making governor arrangement to the City of London Academies (Southwark) MAT LGBs will form part of the current review of the governance of the City of London sole sponsored academies be noted.
- The appointment of Gill Walsh and Jenny Rodericks as governors of the City of London Academy Southwark LGB be endorsed.
- The reappointment of Deputy Bill Fraser as governor of the City of London Academy Southwark LGB be endorsed.

10. **REVENUE BUDGETS 2016/17**

The Board considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding revenue budgets for 2016/17. The Chairman noted that the Board would be seeking a carry-forward of the proposed 2015/16 spend on a teaching conference.

RESOLVED, that

- Subject to the Chairman's comment, the 2017/17 revenue budget be agreed and submitted to the Finance Committee for approval.
- The Chamberlain be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for further implications arising from the agreement by this Committee of specific allocations of funding to academies and central support services.

11. **CITY OF LONDON SCHOLARSHIP - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Board considered a progress report of the Remembrancer on the City of London Scholarship. A member expressed disappointment that only five candidates had been considered for the inaugural scholarship and agreed that in future, if take-up remained low, multiple smaller grants be considered rather than a single, larger grant.

12. **CHRIST'S HOSPITAL - PROCESS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A CHILD**

The Board considered and received a report of the Town Clerk on the process for the Presentation of a child to Christ's Hospital.

**13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD
Fairer Funding**

In response to a question from a member over the extent to which a fairer funding formula would mean reduced funding for inner city schools such as the City of London academies, the Director of Community and Children's Services replied that fairer funding proposals were currently out for consultation ahead of implementation in 2017. In the meantime the Remembrancer would be asked to make appropriate representations to the consultation.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
Latin American Saturday School – Sir John Cass**

The Chairman noted that a letter had been sent to many members of the Board regarding a Latin American Saturday School that was having difficulty in securing funding. Members noted that as a bilingual project, the school could usefully approach multi-national companies with links to the Latin American world.

15. 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.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

17. DUE DILIGENCE REPORTS ON NEW SCHOOL PROPOSALS

The Board considered and agreed a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding due diligence reports on new school proposals.

18. SERVICE BASED-REVIEWS: FEES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES AT THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

The Board considered and agreed a report of the Town Clerk on Service Based Reviews – fees, scholarships and bursaries at the City of London Corporation's independent schools.

19. SECONDARY PROJECTED EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

The Board considered and received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on Secondary projected examination results for 2016.

20. UN-VALIDATED KS1 AND KS2 RAISEONLINE DATA

The Board considered and received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on un-validated KS1 and KS2 RAISEonline data.

21. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX - APPOINTMENTS TO CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY SOUTHWARK LOCAL GOVERNING BODY**

Members received a non-public appendix relating to appointments to the City of London Academy Southwark Local Governing Body.

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

There were no questions.

23. **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 4.57 pm

Chairman

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