

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 12 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 12 September 2019 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst (Chairman)
Ann Holmes (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Caroline Haines

Alderman William Russell
Deborah Knight
Veronica Wadley
Rachel Bower

In Attendance

Officers:

Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Anne Bamford	- Community & Children's Services
Daniel McGrady	- Community & Children's Services
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department (for items 1-6)
Emily Rimington	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Abigail Tinkler	- Open Spaces Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Peter Estlin, Alderman Nicholas Lyons, Randall Anderson, Benjamin Murphy, Ruby Sayed and Deputy Philip Woodhouse.

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

There were no declarations.

3. PUBLIC MINUTES

It was noted by the Town Clerk that Rachel Bower joined the previous meeting following her appointment at the beginning of the agenda.

RESOLVED, that subject to amendment, the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding outstanding public actions of the Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

5. ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Governors received a report of the Town Clerk regarding action taken between meetings.

The Chairman confirmed that he had received a response from the Chamberlain regarding action taken to prevent the overcommitment of one of the Education Charity Sub Committee's designated funds. These measures included a revised report format which would distinguish better the cash available for grant making and the dedication of a senior representative of the Chamberlain's Department to attend future meetings of the Sub-Committee, until further notice.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET UPDATE FOR 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding an update on the Education Board's budget for the 2019/20 financial year, which noted no material variation from the budget.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

7. NOTE ON UPCOMING NATIONAL POLICY

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding upcoming national policy. The following matters were raised:-

- A question was raised about the impact of BREXIT on the availability of school meals for pupils within the Family of Schools. It was explained that this concern stemmed primarily from the working status of catering staff that were in possession of an EU passport. Determination of exactly how many employees would be affected was difficult for several reasons. However, it was reported that the number of staff that held EU passports at the Family of Schools was relatively low and as a result this particular issue was not envisaged as posing a significant risk.
- The matter of whether the qualifications of teaching staff would continue to be recognised post-BREXIT was discussed briefly. Members were informed that an agreement had already been made for joint recognition of qualifications across the EU, and that this area was unlikely to have immediate implications on the day of the UK's departure from the EU.
- Regarding pupils from the EU, it was noted that there would possibly be funding implications for schools receiving support on a per-pupil basis. This impact continued to be difficult to measure as schools were not always made aware of those families that might be looking to move away from the UK.

- Members felt that the Family of Schools should be encouraged to approach their various contractors (catering, cleaning etc) to request detail of those contractors' BREXIT contingency plans.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

8. EDUCATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding an update on Education Activities.

Regarding the Prefect's Dinner on 12 December 2019, all Education Board Members were invited to attend. It was requested by Members that electronic diary invitations be sent out.

Members were notified of both basic and advanced safeguarding training which had been scheduled for governors of the City Family of Schools and which takes forward recommendations from the recent review of safeguarding arrangements across the Family of Schools.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

9. GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding an update on Governor appointments. The following matters were raised:-

- The Chair of Governors at Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School submitted an Instrument of Government to the City Corporation which was approved by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, under urgency procedure on 29 July 2019. The reason for urgency was due to a deadline imposed by the Department for Education, the details of which were to be reported at the Community and Children's Services Committee on 13 September 2019. The governance of the school is now compliant with the School Governance Regulations 2012.
- It was noted that Richard Bannister was no longer the Principal of City of London Academy, Southwark and therefore no longer formed part of the LGB as an ex-officio governor.
- The matter of longstanding vacancies on governing bodies was highlighted as being an area of significant concern for Members of the Board. It was felt that there should be greater succession planning when it came to turnover of governors and that the issue needed to be addressed as a matter of priority. A query was raised by a Member in respect of being unable to fill certain ex-officio vacancies on a board of governors where a governing bodies' terms of reference specify this. It was suggested that, where necessary, changes to the Governing Body's terms of reference be proposed to the City of London Academies Trust for their approval in order to ensure long-term vacancies are avoided.

- Safeguarding compliance was also raised to ensure new governors promptly complete the necessary documentation to receive their DBS certificate.
- Following a question, Members discussed how the Governance Review reported at the July 2019 Education Board informs the City of London's forthcoming broader governance review.

RESOLVED, that

- The appointment of Darren Thompson as a City Corporation Sponsor Trustee to the City Academy Hackney, for a four-year term; and
- The current governing body membership of the City Family of Schools attached at Appendix 2, be noted, subject to the described corrections.

10. THREE YEAR REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT'S 'GREEN SPACES, LEARNING PLACES' PROGRAMME

Members received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the three-year review of the Open Spaces Department's 'Green Spaces, Learning Places' programme. The following matters were raised:

- Members noted the success of the programme and wished to congratulate formally all the staff and volunteers who were involved in its implementation. Members felt that the impact had been significant, particularly to those harder to reach children, including those in receipt of free school meals.
- Members were in support of the five impact areas (Understanding, Confidence, Nature connection, Wellbeing, Involvement) and felt the programme provided significant value to the educational offering of the City of London Corporation. It was highlighted that the programme also supported the Corporation's mental health agenda. In light of the uncertainty posed by the Fundamental Review, the Chairman suggested that the Board would probably support any application to protect funding should such support be needed but requested that the Education Board continue to be kept up to date on its impact and development.
- In response to a query, Members were informed that the Green Spaces, Learning Places team had developed a bespoke impact assessment toolkit with the help of Derby University. The toolkit was used to measure behavioural indicators of children who could benefit most from the programmes. This involved, amongst other things, tracking continued interest in nature and recording responses to specially selected questions asked before and after their participation.
- Members discussed whether the programme could feed into the Sports Strategy. Whilst it was acknowledged that Open Spaces would likely play a significant role in the Corporation's Sports Strategy, it was agreed

that a sports initiative would not fall naturally into the current programme, which was focussed on introducing young people to nature.

- Members discussed more broadly the various activities of the Family of Schools in relation to outside spaces. Members were informed of involvement with the Forest Schools Network, which led to some schools developing vegetable patches and introducing animals to school life. Schools could also use the Culture Mile School Visits Fund delivered by Culture Mile Learning to support with the costs associated with visits to Open Spaces. Open Spaces would also be invited to future Culture Forums. Whilst it was noted that there was more success in encouraging interest in nature at primary schools than in secondary schools, it was suggested that secondary school aged pupils may be interested in opportunities for volunteering.
- Concern was raised over the allocation of staff at Epping Forest that led to lone working. Members noted the steps taken by the Open Spaces Department to revise rotas in order to address the problem.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

11. LONDON CAREERS FESTIVAL 2019 EVALUATION REPORT

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the evaluation of the 2019 London Careers Festival (LCF). The following matters were raised:-

- The LCF 2019 was considered by Members as a success, meeting almost all of its ambitious targets in its first year. The Festival was well attended and effectively targeted at the hardest to reach groups. More businesses wanted to be involved than there was capacity for, a number of whom requested notification when applications open for 2020. It was hoped that next year's event would be even more impactful.
- Members were informed that an appointment had been made for a position in the Education Unit, who would take the lead on the LCF and broader skills remit within the department.
- Members discussed the breakdown of attendees to the LCF. It was suggested that for 2020, schools beyond the neighbouring boroughs would be invited at an earlier stage. In addition, following the success of the 2019 events, continued efforts would be made to include the Home School Network, Virtual School and Organisations supporting children with autism. Whilst there was a good attendance of Livery Schools, greater engagement would be welcomed. A Member requested the number of Livery Schools that were involved in 2019, which would be reported after the meeting. Another Member requested that the Care Givers Covenant not be overlooked.
- A query was raised regarding the existence of any data that would demonstrate whether the LCF led directly to any instances of workplace

learning based offers, or quality work experience offers. Members were informed that the only statutory data collated was for those pupils that went to university; however, this data was due to be expanded to include those who went on to apprenticeships. Beyond that, the Corporation was very limited in what data it was able to collect on students, due to GDPR restrictions.

- Members heard about the media impact of the LCF. There was positive coverage in several publications, in which the City of London Corporation was mentioned. Whilst BBC London was invited, they did not attend as a result of an otherwise busy news week. Members called for media impact to be included in the evaluation report. The Board agreed that a two-page summary, including media coverage, be circulated to the Court of Common Council.
- Members discussed the origins of the LCF, which built upon the pre-existing Livery Schools Link programme plus the Stationer's Company's annual Apprenticeship event and intended to create a "bridge to business".
- It was noted that schools often found it hard to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks and therefore the LCF helped support the Corporation's Education and Skills Strategies as well as the Social Mobility Strategy.
- The Chairman explained that he had invited Caroline Haines to take over as the Chair of the LCF Working Party and invited another Member to support her. Expressions of interest were requested.

RESOLVED, that

- The Education Unit seek to implement the recommendations for LCF 2020, as described within the report;
- A two-page summary of the evaluation report be circulated to the Court of Common Council, featuring media coverage; and
- That the full evaluation report of LCF 2019 at appendix 1, be noted.

12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was one item of urgent business.

The Chairman informed Members that a vacancy had arisen on the Board of Governors of Prior Weston School and that William Pimlott had expressed an interest in this vacancy supported by the School's governing body. The Court of Common Council held the responsibility for the appointment but would do so on the recommendation of the Education Board.

Whilst the Board agreed the appointment of William Pimlott in principle, a question was raised about the necessity to advertise a vacancy on an outside body before recommending an appointment to it. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would investigate and ensure the role was advertised, if required.

14. **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.

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

16. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk

17. **CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services regarding the City of London Academies Development Programme update.

18. **CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST - SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

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

19. **UN-VALIDATED 2019 RESULTS DATA FOR THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

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

There were two questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12.08 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Polly Dunn
polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk