

EDUCATION BOARD

Tuesday, 17 October 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 17 October 2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Caroline Haines (Chairman)	Ruby Sayed
Naresh Hari Sonpar (Deputy Chairman)	Adeleke
Steve Goodman OBE	Faseun
Alderman Robert Howard	Mary Robey
Deputy Shравan Joshi	Steadman
Benjamin Murphy	Joanna Tufuo Abeyie

In Attendance

Officers:

Deborah Bell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Scott Caizley	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Jack Joslin	- The City Bridge Trust
Julia Megone	- Chamberlain's Department
Emily Rimington	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Torriano Stewart	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Barbara Hamilton	- Community and Children's Services Department
Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk
Mark Emmerson	- City of London Academies Trust
Judith Finlay	- Executive Director, Community and Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons, Mandeep Thandi, and John Griffiths.

The Chair moved that two former Members of the Board be thanked.

RESOLVED, That the Board agree to formally thank Alderman Sir Peter Estlin and Tim Campbell for their service to the Board.

The Chair thanked Alderman Sir Peter Estlin for his thoughtful, insightful and intelligent contributions to the work of the Education Board since he first joined back in 2014, noting that he continued to serve on the Board during his time both as Sheriff in 2016 to 17, and as the 691st Lord Mayor in 2018 to 19. The Chair thanked him grateful for his diligence and his direct no-nonsense approach across the decade – almost – of service. Among his many roles, Sir Peter was Treasurer at King Edward’s School Witley from 2006 to 2016, and as chair of the Association of Apprentices Sir Peter was instrumental in the Big Apprentice Meet Up becoming a core component of the City’s annual London Careers Festival. The Board noted in particular his banking and finance background that has been so helpful to our work, as well as his commitment to boosting digital skills in the UK.

The Chair thanked Tim Campbell MBE for his contributions to the Board as he steps back from his role after serving two terms. Tim attended his first Education Board meeting back in April 2015 during the mayoralty of Sir Alan Yarrow and during the chairmanship of Catherine McGuinness a decade after winning the BBC TV series The Apprentice. The Board noted his contributions since that time to support young people wanting to start their own business, particularly those from a disadvantaged background, including acting as Chair of Governors at the primary school he attended himself. The Board also noted his involvement in a wide range of educational initiatives across the past decade, earning him an MBE in 2012 for services to enterprise culture. The Board expressed its gratitude for his unique insight and understanding over the last 8 years, and looks forward to welcoming him to future meetings as a guest.

The Board welcomed these guests to the meeting (from Goldsmith’s College):

Alison Woolley, Director of Development and Alumni
Dr Marl’Ene Edwin, Academic Lead for the Equity Awards
Matthew Taryee-Laryea, Equity Awardee
Melina Paesler, Equity Awardee
Denzel Estrada, Equity Awardee
Joquan Johnson, Equity Awardee

Kseniia Sheveleva, student photographer

Members and attendees confirmed their assent to being photographed during the Public part of the meeting.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Board received the report of the Clerk.

The Board agreed that the outstanding action was completed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Board considered the update of the Nominations Sub-Committee of the Education Board on the meeting of 04 October 2023.

The Board heard that the Nominations Sub-Committee had considered five applicants at a meeting on 04 October 2023 to the position of external Member taking into account the specific skills and attributes candidates brought to the role, and had unanimously approved the appointment of Floyd Steadman OBE. The Board having approved the decision of the Sub-Committee, Floyd Steadman joined the meeting.

RESOLVED, That Floyd Steadman OBE be approved as an external Member of the Board for a four-year term expiring on 17 October 2027.

6. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FORUM

The Board noted the verbal update of the Clerk on recent and upcoming member development and learning sessions.

7. EDUCATION, CULTURAL & CREATIVE LEARNING, AND SKILLS STRATEGIES 2024-2028 UPDATE

The Board noted the report on the current position regarding the development of the Education, Cultural & Creative Learning and Skills Strategies 2024-28, noting that these three reviews are in progress:

- a) Identify key learnings from the current strategies;
- b) Identify potential education opportunities across the range of departments within the City Corporation; and
- c) Consider the current external education landscape with key stakeholders and interested partners.

The Board also noted the update on the stakeholder engagement activity that has taken place to date.

8. EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET UPDATE

The Board received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Service.

9. SUMMARY OF CHILD Q FINDINGS

The Board viewed a 15-minute video 'Child Q update report – why was it me?' on the Child Q findings produced by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Board, noting that Members not at the meeting would be forwarded the link, noting also that it was the remit of other committees for a to discuss the findings and implementation thereof.

10. GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

The Board received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Service, noting that the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) Board of Trustees (BoT) had ratified new appointments to Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) at their meeting on 22 September 2023.

The Board noted that the late Deputy Mark Bostock was showing as a Governor at CLSG as the list was retrospective, and paid tribute to his commitment and dedication. A minute's silence was held in his memory.

11. EDUCATION CULTURAL CREATIVE LEARNING AND WREN300 UPDATE

The Board noted the update on events and activities delivered across the three strategies overseen by the Education Board: Education; Cultural and Creative Learning; and Skills, and noted also the calendar of meetings, forums and events for the 2023-24 academic year.

Referencing section 4 of the report, the Board noted that the London Compact 2030 – Bridge the Gap event has been moved from 16 November 2023 to 30 January 2024 at Guildhall in the morning, led by City of London Academy Trust.

The Board noted that the Lord Mayor elect has asked the CoLC to work on a professional summer school in partnership with the Corporation, the University, and the livery companies among other partners.

12. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE LEARNING FUND UPDATE

The Board received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Service providing Members with key information relating to the status of the Cultural and Creative Learning Projects following the implementation of the new funding model. 12 projects have now received funding. The combined associated cost of these projects is £184,315 of £190,000 available.

The Board noted that the Education Strategy Unit is now handling the Schools Visits Fund and applications have begun, and options for a new public-facing website are being explored. The Fund is being promoted through a range of channels. Since applications went live in September 2023, 41 applications from schools have been accepted and around 66 school trips are being facilitated for 2024.

The Board noted that all Members would receive relevant information via email to support schools.

In response to a question on whether Dr Johnson's House was included in the visits, the Board noted that the list of venues is being reviewed and that a proposal will be submitted to the Board by early 2024 on expanding the venues encompassed by the Fund.

A Member asked whether the Fund could be promoted at the London Careers Festival (LCF). The Board noted that there was scope for further promotion at the LCF.

The Board asked whether unsuccessful applicants to the Cultural Learning Fund were given feedback. The Board heard that all applications were successful, with some adjustments to applications.

13. TRT UPDATE INCLUDING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

The Strategic Education & Skills Director gave a verbal update on the Tackling Racism Taskforce.

Members heard that, in the light of Member feedback, further work is being undertaken to explore how bursaries could be more actively promoted to children in global majority families, alongside publicity from London Free Assistance Consortium, and outreach staff at the CoL independent schools who work proactively with a range of organisations to identify bursary students from disadvantaged families.

Members heard that Black History Month activities were taking place across all CoL schools, alongside a range of training sessions for staff.

14. GOLDSMITHS EQUITY AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Board welcomed staff and students from Goldsmith's College University of London to commemorate the Goldsmiths Equity Awards supported by the CoLC, and viewed a presentation on the awards delivered by the Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

The Board noted that 50% of students at Goldsmiths were from BAME backgrounds, and that 37% of those came from a financially disadvantaged background, leading to the development of the Equity Awards fundraising campaign (£3K pa across a 3-year undergraduate degree), with a target of £3M, of which £1.4M has been raised.

The Board also heard from the Academic lead for the Equity Awards and some of the beneficiaries on the impact of those Awards.

15. LONDON CAREERS FESTIVAL 2023 EVALUATION REPORT

The Board received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, noting the outcomes of the London Careers Festival (LCF) 2023 which engaged primary, secondary and post-16 pupils across London in work-related and skills development activities, noting in particular the LCF 2023 evaluation report with key outcomes and achievements; and the recommendations for LCF 2024 and onwards.

16. LONDON CAREERS FESTIVAL 2024

The Board noted the report of the Director of Community and Children's Service on the 2024 iteration of the London Careers Festival (LCF), noting the proposed date change and the budget allocation implications.

Members noted that the only dates available in 2024 were in late February/early March, and that livery stakeholders had been expressing enthusiasm for a February date for some time in order to hold the event outside the exam period.

RESOLVED,

- That the new date for LCF 2024 be approved (26 Feb to 08 March 2024); and
- That the existing budget be reallocated, meaning that savings will need to be sought from existing or planned activities amounting to a total sum of £55,000 during financial year 2023-24

17. ADULT SKILLS, EDUCATION AND APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE UPDATE

The Board noted the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services that presented a programme update of the outcomes from the City of London Corporation's Adult Skills and Education Services activities, as well as providing a brief summary of its publicly funded programmes delivered during 2022/2023.

18. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

The Board noted the report setting out the outcomes and impacts of the City of London's Connecting Communities programme that ran between 1 January 2022 and 30 September 2023, noting also its recommendations.

The Board noted the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services setting out the outcomes and impacts of the City of London's Connecting Communities programme that ran between 1 January 2022 and 30 September 2023, noting also its recommendations.

In response to a question on what were the key outcomes, the meeting noted that the project had been difficult to run from a standing start in a short period of time, and that some lives were significantly impacted. The meeting also noted that many already-working people in poorly paid jobs needed support, as well as those not in employment that tended to be targeted by Government initiatives.

The meeting heard from one of the programme's beneficiaries Mohammad Hussain Mobarez who thanked the Board for their support of the programme in helping him into his job as constable at the City of London.

The Board noted the correction to the final paragraph of the report circulated to Members before the meeting, to read as follows:

Some final measures

By end August 2023, the City of London Connecting Communities programme had supported 186 participants (56% of target) aged 25 and over, and 139 aged 18-24 (NEET) (87% of target) in addition 92 participants had secured employment (plus 1 self-employment).

Of those who had gained employment by 31 March 2023, 72% were still in employment at 30 September, exceeding the target sustainment rate (6 months in employment) by 32%.

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

There were no questions.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for subsequent 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.

22. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

23. SCHOOLS FAIR FUNDING REVIEW

The Board considered the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services, noting that the proposed reallocation would provide resources to CoLAT to support partnership working, and facilitate the CoLAT schools' effective bidding for City Premium Grant funding.

RESOLVED, That a reallocation of £40,000 from the Strategic & Partnership City Premium Grants to the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) be approved to provide resource for the purpose of fulfilling an unimplemented part of the Tomlinson review approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 6th May 2021.

24. FINANCE UPDATE ON CITY CHARITIES

The Board considered the report of the CBF & Charities Finance Director (representing the Chamberlain).

The Board noted that A New Direction would interact more frequently with the Board in future (including a report to the December Board) so that the Board could be sufficiently informed ahead of future decisions around the charity.

RESOLVED, That Members, acting collectively for the City of London Corporation as Trustee of the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836) and, in

relation to each decision, being satisfied that it is in the best interests of each charity concerned and its beneficiaries:

1. Note the contents of the report and appendices, including the draft Trustee's annual report and financial statements which will be reported to Finance Committee for approval; and
2. Agree the budget for the City Educational Trust Fund to the anticipated date of closure in 2028, including the level of recharged management and administration costs which confirms the ongoing support of the dedicated Central Grants Unit staff member up to the point of the charity's closure in 2027/28.

25. **UNVALIDATED 2023 EXAM RESULTS DATA FOR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

The Board received the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services that provided Members with an overview of the unvalidated exam results across the City Family of Schools.

The Board congratulated NCS in particular on their excellent results.

26. **CITY OF LONDON ACADEMIES TRUST - DUE DILIGENCE REPORT ON LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL**

The Board considered the report of the CEO of the City of London Academies Trust on the due diligence report in respect of London Nautical School (LNS), noting the Board's remit act to act as the Sponsor's representative (taking into account previously made and reiterated agreements that the Trust expand to 12 schools).

The Board noted the principal concerns set out in section 10 of the report, as well as the advantages set out in section 9.

A Member asked whether the inclusion of LNS into the Trust would have an impact on other CoLAT schools. The Board heard that the provision would be strengthened thanks to the expertise in autism management, and that the school's finance staff could be transferred to the central team.

A Member asked for clarification on student demographics and how that dovetailed into the current CoLAT profile. The Board noted that Pupil Premium-eligible (PP) students comprised around 60% of CoLAT secondary school students (approximately double the national average) and that LNS is roughly in line with that 60% figure, making LNS an easy fit for CoLAT.

A Member sought clarification on the general direction of the MAT, specifically whether the inclusion of LNS was viewed as a step towards a target of 12, or whether the ambition was to expand beyond that figure – noting the benefits of

achieving economies of scale, as well as the risks. The Board heard that 12 schools was expected to achieve significant economies of scale, alongside greater centralisation.

The Board noted that speedy approval would result in positive engagement opportunities with prospective Y7 students ahead of the September 2024 intake, noting also that London Borough of Lambeth has closed two secondary schools, creating a small surplus of secondary school-aged pupils compared to 2022-23. The Board also noted that the Board of Trustees had strongly supported the further exploration of LNS as a potential 11th school at its most recent meeting of 22 September 2023.

RESOLVED, That the Board approve CoLAT moving to the next stage of the process: approval by the Policy and Resources Committee to engage with the DfE, make formal requests to the DfE, Lambeth and other stakeholders, and begin consultation on LNS joining CoLAT.

27. CHAIRS' UPDATES

The Board noted that CoLAT is in the process of reconstituting its improvement plan over the next four years, encompassing the Trust's growth strategy and ambitions to further support disadvantaged young people in London.

The Board noted that many CoLAT schools are located in areas of London that suffer from crime, and that the schools work closely with the police.

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

There were no questions.

29. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Jayne Moore

Jayne.Moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk