

STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF LONDON
ACADEMIES TRUST

Thursday, 7 November 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Accountability Committee of the City of London Academies Trust held at the Guildhall EC2 at 9.00 am

Present

Members:

Tijs Broeke (Chair)

Roy Blackwell

Edward Benzecry

Andrew McMurtrie

Officers:

Mark Emmerson

- Chief Executive Officer

Kerry Nicholls

- Town Clerk's Department

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

An election for Chair was conducted. Tijs Broeke being the only Trustee willing to serve, was elected Chair for the ensuing year.

The Chair led the Committee in thanking Roy Blackwell for his excellent work as Chair of the Standards and Accountability Committee for the 2018-19 academic year.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ann Holmes.

3. DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

5. PILOT ALTERNATIVE PROVISION, RESPITE AND MANAGED MOVES PROTOCOL

Trustees considered a report of the Chief Executive Officer outlining the pilot Alternative Provision, Respite and Managed Moves Protocol and the following points were made:

- The Protocol had been developed to reduce permanent exclusions, fixed-term exclusions and external sixth day provision across the Trust by establishing a brokerage system between Trust schools for respite and managed moves in which existing resources could be better managed. It was anticipated that the proposed arrangements would reduce the number of short fixed-term exclusions as a stronger

behaviour culture developed across the Trust, and that an efficient transfer arrangement between schools sharing a similar ethos would create a more positive experience for affected pupils. It was hoped to involve the two City-sponsored academies the City Academy Hackney and the City of London Academy Islington in the proposed new arrangements. The City of London Academy Southwark would continue to work with neighbouring schools to broker respite and managed moves and was also planning to build closer working links with Redriff Primary City of London Academy where Year 7 pupils might benefit from engaging in active support with younger children.

- By increasing access to respite, more preventative work could be undertaken with pupils identified as being at risk of exclusion which would also help build understanding with parents and carers over Trust-wide expectations around behaviour. A Governor observed that respite placements could be used as a pathway to successful managed moves. The increased use of managed moves between schools within the Trust would also minimise the time students spent out of formal education and would provide a positive means of maintaining the mainstream education of pupils who displayed persistently disruptive behaviour. The Chief Executive Officer explained that dual registration would be maintained for pupils joining a new school under a managed move which would enable them to transfer back to their original school if this was felt appropriate. The exam results of dual-registered pupils would be attributed to their original school unless their dual-registration was removed by mid-January. The current arrangements for lagged funding meant that schools would not receive funding for pupils joining via a managed move for approximately 18 months; however, the cost of pupils joining existing classes would be marginal.
- The Trust was looking for opportunities to establish longer term alternative provision arrangements to avoid the necessity to permanently exclude students. There was an ambition for such a provision to draw on best practice and become a centre of excellence which, following initial start-up costs, would eventually be self-financing. The Chief Executive Officer observed that, as a Regional National Behaviour Advisor for the Department for Education, he was well-placed to identify best practice in effective out-of-school provision as well as any potential funding opportunities in this area.

In concluding, Trustees requested that an update on the Trust's plans to establish its own alternative provision be reported to the meeting of the Standards and Accountability Committee on 30 April 2020. Trustees also requested that a reporting mechanism be developed to assess the impact of the Alternative Provision, Respite and Managed Moves Protocol, which could include key metrics around the number of exclusions. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that a termly audit would be undertaken on pupils being moved via the Protocol, the findings of which would be reported to the Standards and Accountability Committee and the Board of Trustees, and that

this would provide valuable context for Ofsted in assessing school performance.

RESOLVED, that the Alternative Provision, Respite and Managed Moves Protocol be supported and that its effectiveness in reducing permanent exclusions, fixed-term exclusions and external sixth day provision be reviewed.

6. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Trustees noted that the next meeting of the Standards and Accountability Committee would be held at 9.00am on Thursday 6 February 2020.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from the following items of business.

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

10. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Trustees considered a report of the Clerk regarding outstanding actions arising from previous meetings.

11. **PILOT ALTERNATIVE PROVISION, RESPITE AND MANAGED MOVES PROTOCOL - NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Trustees considered non-public information alongside Item 5: Pilot Alternative Provision, Respite and Managed Moves Protocol.

12. **ACADEMIES AT A GLANCE**

Trustees considered a report of the Chief Executive Officer presenting the 'Academies at a Glance' summary.

13. **COLAT SCHOOLS SAFEGUARDING MONITORING UPDATE**

Trustees considered a report of the Chief Executive Officer reporting the outcome of the first safeguarding monitoring exercise for the 2019-20 academic year.

14. **SCRUTINY MEETINGS - LINES OF ENQUIRY**

Trustees considered a report of the Chief Executive Officer regarding the outcomes of scrutiny meetings for the City of London Corporation's academies held on 30 October 2019 in accordance with the City of London Corporation's accountability framework.

15. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was one non-public question.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am

Chair

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