

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	03/12/2021
Subject: Governor Appointments Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 8 & 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report asks Members to note the appointments of governors to the Local Governing Bodies of City of London Academies Trust. The current governing body membership of the City Family of Schools is attached in **Appendix One**.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report and to approach CoLAT to request details of the processes underway to fill governor vacancies, especially in schools with vacancies. Clerking services to schools to be more coordinated and to update on governor changes and vacancies.

Main Report

Background

1. As per the Sponsorship Agreement with the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT), the Education Board approve the appointment of Chairs to Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) and are consulted on governor vacancies and notified of governor appointments.

Current Position

2. School governors play a vital role in education.
3. The governing board plans the strategic direction of a school, makes sure public money is well spent, and holds school leadership to account.
4. There appears to be an ongoing difficulty in securing full governing bodies in the academies. Currently, there are in excess of 14 vacancies, including more than three governor vacancies in schools that are in the Ofsted inspection window.

5. There are a further three governors whose term of office has expired and another 11 governors whose terms is due to expire within two months.
6. There seems to be challenges in Academy sponsors in getting up to date information from the clerks of Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) on the current membership.
7. There are different names on the government's Get Information about Schools (GIAS) website and the schools' websites.
8. A number of the vacancies relate to parent governors and as noted previously in earlier governor updates, it is a requirement that there are at least two parents on each LGB.

Proposals

9. Effective governor succession planning is a requirement and when it is in place, it can promote stability and provide evidence of a skills-based approach to assuring good governance. Succession planning can enhance the school's links with community and boost diversity and talent on the governing body.
10. Members could consider sharing expertise across the system (including across the Family of Schools) to help to prevent trust boards stagnating or individuals gaining too much power and influence solely through their length of service.
11. It is recommended that CoLAT undertake a full review of all expiry dates on terms of office, and also the basis of appointment (co-opted etc) to link with the terms of reference in each case.
12. Moreover, it is recommended that each year in January CoLAT Chairs of Governors identify upcoming vacancies on LGBs and identify skill requirements of the Board.
13. That from January to March each year the Chairs of Governors commence the recruitment process for governor vacancies and COL Education Unit are informed of governor vacancies and advertise to Court of Common Council and Governors for Schools. CoLAT also advertise through their networks and systems and within local communities.
14. Between March and May each year, CoLAT produce an Annual Governance Report including notice of governor vacancies so that the Education Board can consider nominations.
15. Governors are approved in meetings in June and July to ensure that full governing bodies are in place for the first meeting at the start of the academic year. (See **Appendix Two** for the proposed annual cycle for governance).

Options

16. This report is for discussion only.

Key Data

17. The current governing body membership of the City Family of Schools is attached in **Appendix One**.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. A sound governance framework sets out the shared purpose, vision and values of the trust and enables the trust to develop an agreed strategy to implement its purpose.
19. Effective Local Governing Bodies and Governor Boards in all schools ensures oversight and monitoring of performance along the way and ensures accountability for delivering its mission.

Conclusion

This report updates Members on new governor appointments within the City Family of Schools. Three of the CoLAT LGBs have existing or pending vacancies. The list of governors across the Family of Schools is included in **Appendix One**.

Appendix

Appendix One: The list of governors across the Family of Schools

Appendix Two: Proposed annual governance cycle

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