

## EDUCATION BOARD

**Tuesday, 23 September 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room 1 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 10.30 am

### Present

#### Members:

Tim McNally (Deputy Chair)	Alderman Robert Howard
Deputy Anne Corbett	Jane Hindle
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP	Floyd Steadman OBE
Steve Goodman OBE	Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP
Deputy Caroline Haines	

### 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
Torriano Stewart	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Kevin Colville	- Comptroller and City Solicitors
Mark Emmerson	- City of London Academies Trust
Roland Martin	- Headmaster, City of London Freemen's School
Barbara Hamilton	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jelani Banks	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jamie Hannon	- Community and Children's Services Department
Olivia Larkin	- Innovation and Growth
Julia Megone	- City Bridge Foundation
Rebecca Branch	- A New Direction
Laura Fuller	- A New Direction

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Naresh Sonpar, Shravan Joshi and James Adeleke. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Chair Tim McNally.

The Board welcomed Jelani Banks to his first Board meeting, who is working with the Education Strategy Unit as the Project Officer on the mentoring project and other activities.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the meeting of 10 June 2025 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Board noted the Outstanding Actions.

5. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND RENEWAL OF TERM**

The Board considered the report of the Clerk and reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Nominations Sub-Committee and the Member Development and Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED**, That these Members be appointed:

Nominations Sub-Committee: Chair, Deputy Chair, Caroline Haines

Member Development and Standards Committee: Chair and Deputy Chair

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the renewal of the term of Jane Hindle to 31 October 2029.

6. **EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - 2025/26 PERIOD 3**

The Board received the report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services updating Members on the Period 3 (P3) position for 2025/26, outlining current expenditure and financial activity across the Education Board's strategic areas noting in particular the spend to date, committed allocations, and the forecast outturn for both Local Risk and Central Risk budgets, with a breakdown of key grant funding, partnership contributions, and strategic initiatives supported during the year.

In response to a question on the spending commitments made so far, the meeting noted that salary commitments will be unchanged and that some Local Risk spending is still to be allocated (Cultural & Creative Learning) - and there is confidence that the money will be appropriately spent. The meeting noted that expenditure is planned around the academic year, in particular the City Premium Grant with the second tranche expected in January 2026.

A Member asked for further information on the 'Personal Development' line (appendix one). The meeting noted that further information would be provided (see action point).

7. **THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND (CHARITY NO. 290840) GRANT MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Board considered the report of the Acting Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation that provided an evaluation report for Year One of the work undertaken by A New Direction, noting that the City of London Corporation is

the sole corporate trustee of this Charity which operates, in summary, to further education for the public benefit: the City Educational Trust Fund ("CETF") (Charity No. 290840).

Members noted the charitable purposes of the CETF for the public benefit:

1. *for the advancement of the objects of The City University constituted by Royal Charter granted on 23 May, 1966, or any of such objects, or for other educational purposes connected with, or related to, the said university;*
2. *without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, for the advancement of education in science and technology, business management and commerce by the promotion of research, study, teaching and training in and of such subjects, or any of them, or, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, for the advancement of the study and teaching of biology and ecology, or for the advancement of research, study and teaching in and of the cultural arts.*

Members noted that at the Education Board in April 2024 the Board agreed to award a £3,649,998 grant to A New Direction (Charity No. 1126216) to deliver Primary Arts – a cultural arts programme within London's primary schools, to enhance the education of and teaching in the cultural arts for the public benefit, spanning 48 months, following on from a 14-month pilot to develop the programme.

A Member asked whether the programme can be demonstrated to help children with school-readiness, given the issues in that domain. The meeting heard that the programme supports confidence, engagement and positive thinking to help with school readiness and engagement. In response to a question on monitoring the impact of the programme in Y2 on broader learning, the meeting noted that a case study process is under way in which some schools' participation is tracked over time.

A Member asked to what extent Pupil Premium (PP) students are being targeted by the programme. The meeting heard that the pan-London approach means that the programme is rolled out in all London boroughs including those with lower PP student numbers, and that the programme has developed a matrix to support decision-making around how to better target PP (as well as SEND) students, including those in less affluent boroughs. In response to a question on Looked-After Children (LAC) the meeting noted that the programme does not directly monitor LAC participation at present but is likely to take that into account in future.

A Member commented that further interventions should take place to encourage the participation of The Aldgate School in the programme. The meeting heard that AND and the executive are working hard to encourage take-up at that school.

Following a comment on the apparent lack of take-up on the leadership programme, the meeting noted that the capacity is 22 because of the programme's design, and that the programme is always fully subscribed with careful selection taking place.

A Member asked for more information on the spend per intervention and unit costs (see action point)

**RESOLVED**, That, acting collectively for the City of London Corporation as Trustee CETF and being satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity, the Board:

1. Note the end of Year One update report for the Primary Arts programme funded by the CETF; and
2. Approve the request to extend the eligibility criteria for the programme to include SEND settings working with secondary aged pupils (as set out in sections 27 and 28 of the report).

## 8. **WORKFORCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Board received the report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services providing the first annual update on skills development performance following a request at the Board's December 2024 and January 2025 meetings for clarity on the extent and impact of the City Corporation's collective skills development activities.

Members also noted that the report is set in the context of Members' ambition to develop a City Youth Guarantee for residents and students, complementing the proposed national Youth Guarantee (noting also that national pilots on the latter are still under way).

Members noted that the Corporation's investment in skills development takes place via the Policy & Resources Committee and via Innovation & Growth noting also that ASES funding is through GLA, DfE and DWP grant funded programmes, with apprenticeships funded through the CoLC's levy.

Referencing the SME strategy, a Member asked whether businesses are genuinely committed to youth work programmes. The meeting heard that a directory is being compiled that lists employability opportunities offered by City businesses, that some opportunities are already being exploited by the Corporation around social value business objectives, and that the Education Strategy Unit is working to assess where business and Corporation objectives (including with City Belonging and Destination City) overlap to ensure that learners and businesses can be connected and aligned in a coherent manner to cover mentoring, work experience opportunities, apprenticeships and internships under a single umbrella. The meeting noted that business representatives sit on the Taskforces set out in section 3 of the report and are piloting a range of initiatives.

The meeting noted the number of planning developments approved by the Corporation that could be further leveraged by the Corporation for work opportunities.

A Member asked what the Corporation is doing to connect with existing apprenticeship schemes in the Financial and Professional Services (FPS)

industry run by trade organisations (such as UK Finance, Investment 2020, and the Chartered Insurance Institute), noting that there is limited benefit to be had from replicating those schemes. The meeting heard that the Corporation does not work on apprenticeships with such organisations since these already exist, noting also that such companies also have an apprenticeship levy to cover apprenticeships in specific sectors, and that the Corporation handles Corporation-related apprenticeships as well as supporting other industries and small businesses by providing off the job training for the mandatory taught element of apprenticeship programmes, and also nurturing and building links with businesses around employment and work experience.

A Member commented that there is merit in specific action being taken in the construction industry given the reported skills shortages in that industry, commenting also that the Corporation's activity depends partly on whether the Corporation is primarily supporting businesses in filling skills gaps, or supporting workers in upskilling or getting jobs – particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds – noting also the impact of AI progress on the jobs market.

Referencing section 14 of the report, a Member asked for more information on the 100 apprentices at the Corporation including background, job area, and destination (see action point). The Board noted that apprentices at the Corporation are not expected to have been in tertiary education, and many of them are 16+.

The meeting noted that a cohort of disadvantaged students at the City of London Academies Trust would benefit from greater access to opportunities for work experience, internships and apprenticeships in the City, noting the difficulties of securing placements for students at the Apprenticeship Academy. It was also noted that provision of work experience opportunities is a considerable expense to companies and require flexibility from schools to accommodate business priorities in companies. It was noted that schools that engage in the London Careers festival often leverage work experience opportunities for their students through interaction with companies at the Festival. The meeting also noted that some of the Corporation's City Premium Grant contribution to CoLAT central team is planned to engage a part-time staff member to develop this work.

Members discussed the optimum oversight and governance mechanism for apprenticeships (see action point).

## 9. **MENTORING UPDATE**

Members heard an update on mentoring, noting the following:

- OMG Education has been appointed as service provider following a bidding process;
- The Education Strategy Unit has received funding for the new mentoring initiative and contracts were finalised in August 2025;
- Early areas of focus will include: establishment of co-designed referral pathways with LAs and recruitment of mentors;

- Live mentoring is expected to commence by early 2026 following mentor training; and
- The service is focussed on care-experienced young people with young people with SEND based on uptake.

## **10. LONDON CAREERS FESTIVAL UPDATE**

The Board heard an update on the London Careers Festival (02 – 13 March 2026), noting that 5657 attendees had attended the event in person in 2025, its highest attendance figure ever. The Board noted that recent enhancements included double the number of sessions on location at businesses in the City, an advisory board comprising apprentices and business leaders among others, and increased neurodivergent and SEND provision.

The Board noted that the focus for the 2026 event is 'I can work here' [ie, in the City of London].

A Member commented that many disadvantaged students feel alienated in the City, a finding from LCF 2025 which has informed the theme for 2026 - and that the theme should continue to be explored with further interventions.

## **11. OUTCOME OF RESEARCH PROJECTS**

The Board noted the report of the Executive Director of Children & Community Services setting out the two Education Board–commissioned research projects (SEND best practice; parental experiences and the role of parents in shaping music education) into a single report with separate appendices for each study. The Board noted that both pieces were approved by Members following the Education Board meeting of 09 October 2024 and were funded at £10,000 each noting also that the projects were selected to deliver rigorous, policy-relevant evidence in support of the Education Strategy 2024–29 priority Supporting Educational Excellence, and to ensure the Board's activity remains evidence-driven and responsive to the needs of pupils, families and schools.

Members commented on the late circulation of the report (the day before the meeting) noting also that the timing of the circulation of the report was constrained by a range of factors including extended approval schedules for the two research projects which Members required to make a decision on research options offered. The research paper was offered to Members without further delay to enable a funding bid application and to enable convening activities to influence the anticipated SEND White Paper and anticipated National Curriculum Review.

The Board agreed to endorse the continued direction of the research to include operational activity.

## **12. 2025-26 ESU EVENTS CALENDAR**

Members noted the Education Strategy Unit calendar of events for the 2025-26 academic year, noting that the Education Board dinner is scheduled for 04 June 2026 at Guildhall.

The Board agreed to streamline the Board meeting calendar and hold one Board meeting per term rather than two, noting that the next Board meeting will take place in January 2026 (deleting the meetings of December 2025, March 2026 and July 2026).

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

**15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting 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 Board considered the non-public minutes of the meeting of 10 June 2025.

**17. FINANCE UPDATE - 1. THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND (CETF) (290840) & 2. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY (CEC) (312836)**

The Board received the report of the City Bridge Foundation & Charities Finance Director (representing the Chamberlain) presenting the draft Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the most recent year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for these two charities (for which the City of London Corporation is the sole corporate trustee):

1. The City Educational Trust Fund (290840 – “CETF”); and
2. The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (“CEC”) (312836).

**18. CLFS DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Board received the report of the Headmaster.

**19. CITY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS UNVALIDATED RESULTS 2025: GCSE AND A-LEVEL**

The Board received the report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services.

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

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

**The meeting ended at 12.10 pm**

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Chairman

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