

EDUCATION BOARD

Thursday, 5 March 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Board held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 5 March 2015 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)
Henry Colthurst (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy John Bennett
Nigel Challis
Alderman Peter Estlin
Alderman Lord Mountevans

Stuart Fraser
Virginia Rounding
Alderman William Russell
Ian Seaton
Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

Peter Lisley
Alistair MacLellan
Liz Skelcher
Laura Donegani
Mark Jarvis
Ade Adetosoye
Gerald Mehrtens
Joshua Burton
John Conway

Assistant Town Clerk
Town Clerk's Department
Town Clerk's Department
Town Clerk's Department
Chamberlain's Department
Community & Children's Services
Community & Children's Services
Community & Children's Services
Community & Children's Services

In Attendance:

Sharon Ament
Director of the Museum of London

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Reverend Dr Martin Dudley.

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

The following standing declarations were made relating to the other bodies which Members of the Education Board served on.

Deputy John Bennett

Board of Governors City of London Freeman's School
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Nigel Challis

Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors The City Academy, Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment Educational Foundation
Oxford University Council Integrity Committee

Henry Colthurst

Board of Governors, Mossbourne Community Academy
Board of Mossbourne Federation
Member of Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers

Alderman Peter Estlin

Treasurer, Bridewell Royal Hospital - King Edward's School, Witley

Alderman Jeffrey Evans

Board of Governors City of London Academy – Islington
St Paul's Chorister Trust
Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital

Deputy Catherine McGuinness

Board of Governors The City Academy, Hackney
Castle Baynard Educational Foundation & Alderman Samuel Wilson Fund
United Westminster Schools Foundation
Board of School Governors and Council of Almoners, Christ's Hospital
Barbican Centre Board
Guildhall School Development Fund

Virginia Rounding

Board of Governors City of London School for Girls
Board of Governors The City Academy – Hackney
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee

Philip Woodhouse

Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School
Board of Mossbourne Federation
Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy, Hackney
Chairman of Governors of Wellesley House School
Member of the Court of Worshipful Company of Grocers

3. **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS**

The Town Clerk introduced a report on the appointment of two candidates to the remaining co-opted member vacancies on the Board, noting that the two candidates were recommended for appointment by the Board's Nominations Working Group.

RESOLVED, that members,

- Appoint Tim Campbell (Bright Ideas Trust) to the Education Board for a four-year term concluding 4 March 2019;
- Appoint Helen Sanson (Tower Hamlets Business Enterprise Partnership) to the Education Board for a three-year term concluding 4 March 2018.

4. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2014 be approved as a correct record, subject to the reference to £50,000 being removed from the item on the draft budget allocation for 2015/16.

Matters Arising
Education Board Handbook

Following a comment by a member, the Town Clerk noted that a handbook was being drafted covering the remit and membership of the Board, and this would include information, for the benefit of members, on the officers involved in the work of the Board. Furthermore, the Chairman suggested that the Board be provided with name cards, to be placed in front of attendees at each Board meeting to ensure officers and members were familiar with those present.

5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman introduced a report of the Town Clerk on the Board's terms of reference, noting that each grand committee had the opportunity to review its terms of reference annually to ensure they remained fit for purpose. The following points were made.

- The Chairman noted the decision of the Court of Common Council when establishing the Education Board to make it necessary for all appointments of academy governors to be referred to the Court for approval. She contrasted this approach with the fact that the Community and Children's Services Committee had, before the Education Board was established, the power to appoint academy governors without referring to the Court of Common Council. The Director of Community and Children's Services agreed that in this context a case could be made for the Education Board to be granted the power to appoint academy governors, without the need to refer to the Court.
- The Deputy Chairman noted that it was also important that the City Corporation utilise a skills-based selection approach for all appointments made to Boards of school governors.
- A member commented that it would be useful for a paper on the various boards and bodies that the City Corporation appointed governors to be submitted to the Board for information. The Chairman agreed, and remarked that this was perhaps a matter for the upcoming review of outside bodies.
- The Deputy Chairman queried whether co-opted members of the Board should be granted a vote in Board matters. The Town Clerk noted that co-opted members had been explicitly granted the vote when the Board was established.
- The Town Clerk noted the proposed change to the quorum for the appointment of external members: this would change from the current 5 Common Council members plus 1 co-opted member, to 5 Common Council members only. This would ensure that the Board had the ability to appoint external members in the event all four external member appointments on the Board were vacant.
- In response to comments from Members, the Town Clerk agreed to canvass Board members outside of the meeting to establish what frequency and timing of meetings was acceptable for the majority of the Board.

RESOLVED, that

- That the process for appointing co-opted members no longer require a co-opted member to be present for the meeting to be quorate. Therefore the quorum for the appointment of co-opted members be amended from the current

5 Common Council members plus 1 co-opted member, to 5 Common Council members only;

- That the approval of the Court of Common Council no longer be required for appointment of academy governors, and this be a matter for the Education Board alone, in line with previous practice for academy governor appointments by the Community and Children's Services Committee;
- Any further changes to the Board's terms of reference be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

6. **EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Chairman introduced a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services that updated members on recent activity undertaken in the delivery of the Education Strategy. She then welcomed the Director of the Museum of London to the meeting and invited her to update members on the work of the Learning and Engagement Forum (LEF). The Museum Director made the following remarks.

- The City Corporation was a great 'family' of outreach that had great potential to deliver impact. For example the London Metropolitan Archives had recently received a Stamford Award, the first UK archive to do so.
- Activity undertaken by the LEF in autumn 2014 had included a 'Picnic with Paddington' and a Youth Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, a partnership between the Barbican Centre and the Southbank Centre.
- Great Fire of London workshops had proved popular, involving 9000 pupils. This project threw up questions around how existing assets such as archaeology were used effectively.
- The Museum of London had undertaken some items of teacher training following the addition of prehistory to the national curriculum. In addition the Barbican Centre was assisting 3 teachers of school music.
- The LEF had convened an event at the Museum of London for 240 pupils from the City of London Academy Southwark's Year 7 on 22 January 2015. The day's activities were designed to help increase pupils' understanding of the history of the City.
- In response to a question from a member, the Museum Director replied that the LEF aimed to roll out its combined outreach across London but was first focusing on building relationships with City Schools.
- In response to a question from a member, the Museum Director replied that it was the aim of the LEF to 'engage every school child', an aspiration first adopted by the Museum of London, an organization that reached 147,000 school children per year.

Members then discussed the role of outreach in general and the following points were made.

- A member commented that outreach could be used to combat radicalism, and this had recently been discussed at the City Academy Hackney, where it had been agreed that outreach could be used to understand and value UK heritage.

- The Assistant Town Clerk noted that the Counterterrorism and Security Bill had now passed Parliament, and that from 1 July 2015 it would be a statutory obligation across for the City Corporation as a local authority to counter extremism in its housing estates, and in its schools. A strategy would involve a full range of measures covering the City Police, education and museums. The Chairman commented that this was an area where the various City School Heads could liaise with one another.

A member commented that the City of London School for Girls had won a dragons den style event held at Mansion House on 9 February that was referenced within the update report. The Education Policy Officer noted that it was intended the event would continue under the aegis of Mansion House in future years. The Deputy Chairman added that the event was an excellent idea that should be expanded, and a member noted it was an excellent way to bring both the City's independent schools and its academies together.

A member noted that he had recently visited Redriff Primary School with the Policy Chairman, and had been thoroughly impressed. He noted however that it was his impression when reviewing Education Strategy activity that there was a marked absence of the City of London Freeman's School, and queried whether this was a result of its geographic location. All agreed that there was more scope for the Freeman's School to 'tell the tale' of its engagement with the Education Strategy. A co-opted member remarked that the City independent schools would likely have an excellent story to tell in terms of their engagement with local communities and state schools.

The Education Policy Officer remarked that Freeman's School was fully engaged in greater collaboration across the City Family of Schools. Five of its governors had been present at Safeguarding training the previous week.

A member remarked that any forthcoming Board dinner should be coordinated with those dinners held by the Boards of the City's independent schools.

The Chairman remarked that the recent recipient of the Victoria Cross for actions in Afghanistan was an alumnus of Christ's Hospital.

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7. EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR 2015/16

The Director of Community and Children's Services introduced a report on the Board's proposed budget allocation for financial year 2015/16. He noted that the proposed budget allocated £500,000 to the City Academies and £150,000 to the Education Unit. There remained flexibility in the budget for the Board to formulate its 'ask' for future years.

The Deputy Chairman commented that it would be useful to be given an idea of how much funding was allocated to each strand of the strategy. A member agreed, and noted that some allocations were ill-defined, arguably dissipating value across a myriad of initiatives.

RESOLVED, that members endorse the Education Board's budget allocation for Financial Year 2015/16 as set out within the report.

8. **REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk on actions taken since the last meeting, namely the recommendation of the Board under urgency procedure to the Court of Common Council, the appointment of Andrew McMurtrie as Company Member of the City of London Academies (Southwark) in the room of Reverend Dr Martin Dudley.

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9. **FREE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

The Director of Community and Children's Services provided a verbal update for the Board on the progress of the City Corporation's two applications to the Education Funding Agency, noting that a decision was due on or around 17 March 2015.

10. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY AND STRATEGY - PROGRESS UPDATE**

A report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on progress on Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy and Strategy was received.

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

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

13. **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 as follows:-

Item(s)	Paragraph
14-18	3

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2014 be approved as a correct record.

15. **MINUTES OF THE NOMINATIONS WORKING GROUP**

16. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Nominations Working Group held on 15 January 2015 were received.

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17. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Nominations Working Group held on 17 February 2015 were received.

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18. **THE CITY ACADEMY HACKNEY'S SIXTH FORM EXPANSION - STANDBY LOAN PROPOSAL**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

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

There were no questions.

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

Free Schools

The Board considered one item of urgent business related to Free Schools.

The meeting ended at 5.40 pm

Chairman

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