

Governing Body of Stormont House School

**Minutes of the meeting held at the school
on Monday 3 March 2025 at 5.00pm**

Membership:

Name	Governor Type	Term of Office end	Present
Beatrice Andrews (Chair)	Co-opted Governor	09/07/2027	present
Dot Hodgson (DC)	Co-opted Governor (Vice-chair)	30/07/2026	present
Rhiannon Eglin (RE)	Co-opted Governor	04/10/2028	present
Judit Kimpian (JK)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	present
Kevin McDonnell (KM)	Headteacher	-	present
Gary Pleasants (GP)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	present
Justyna Sagan (JS)	Staff Governor	25/11/2028	present
Nicola Pizzolato (NP)	Co-opted Governor	20/06/2025	present
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor		
Vacancy	Local Authority Governor		
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor		
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor		
Andre Deen-Swaray	Associate Member (Young Governor Programme)		Item 2.5 onward
Bernard Hawes (BH)	Associate Member	24/11/2027	online

Also Present:

Sandra Collier (SC) - Deputy Headteacher
Missy Brissett (MB)- Interim School Business Manager
Mariana Cruz (MC)- prospective Co-opted Governor (online)

Clerk to the Governing Body: Donna Knight-Olds
E-mail: donna.knight-olds@hackney.gov.uk

Action Log

25-11-2024 Item 2.2	Governors were reminded to complete the Register of Pecuniary Interests on Governor Hub.	All	asap	Completed
25-11-2024 Item 2.3	that one Co-opted Governor with expertise in finance and budgeting be sought and a second Co-opted Governor be sought with an openness to areas of skill; that an advertisement be prepared seeking new Co-opted Governors and all be asked link and share to it via social media channels;	Headteacher	asap	Completed
25-11-2024 Item 5	that a list of destinations for Year 11, 12 and 13 leavers be sent to all Governors.	Claire Napier	asap	KM to check
25-11-2024 Item 7	Governors were reminded that they should read the updated KCSIE Guidance then register on Governor Hub that they had done so.	All	asap	Completed
25-11-2024 Item 9	Prepare a policy review schedule	Headteacher	Next meeting	On agenda
25-11-2024 Item 11	(i) that Governors should be invited to all suitable school events; (ii) that all Governors should endeavour to attend the 4 February 2025 Coffee Morning and then stay to visit classrooms and talk to students.	Headteacher All		No Governors attended on 04/02/2025 but can be standard practice to invite all suitable events.
03-03-2025 Item 2	that a list of Link Governor positions be brought to the next meeting and appointments made then.	Headteacher	Next meeting	
03-03-2025 Item 2	that a Skills Audit be conducted	Clerk	Soon	
03-03-2025 Item 5	(i) that potential school expansion should become a standing part of the Headteacher's report and each FGB meeting; (ii) that the Resources Committee should look in more detail at the potential plans.	Headteacher	ongoing	
03-03-2025 Item 5	that the information on the five-year photocopier contract be shared with Governors for agreement by email in line with the scheme of delegation.	SBM	immediately	

1 Attendance

- 1.1** The Vice-chair welcomed the two new Parent Governors and the newly appointed SBM to the meeting. Mariana Cruz also introduced herself referencing her being a lawyer and previous experience as a Community Governor at a Pupil Referral Unit. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Apologies for lateness were received from Andre Deen-Swaray

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mariana Cruz be appointed as a Co-opted Governor;
- (ii) that Judit Kimpian be appointed to the Teaching and Learning Committee;
- (iii) that Gary Pleasants be appointed to the Resources Committee;
- (iv) that Mariana Cruz be appointed to the Resources Committee.

2 Governing Body Organisation

2.1 Declarations of Interest

- (i) Dot Hodgson declared that she had changed job and was now employed by LB Hackney. Her new role related to expansion of SEND provision in the borough and thus could potentially produce some conflict of interest with the planned extension to be discussed under Item 5 and in the future;
- (iii) Judit Kimpian declared that she was a member of the Hackney Parent Forum Steering Group.

2.2 Register of Pecuniary Interests

No change.

New Governors were advised of the need to register their interests.

2.3 Governor Recruitment

It was noted that the DBS checks for all new Governors were in train and that all had access to Governor Hub.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Mariana Cruz be appointed as a Co-opted Governor;
- (ii) that Judit Kimpian be appointed to the Teaching and Learning Committee;
- (iii) that Gary Pleasants be appointed to the Resources Committee;
- (iv) that Mariana Cruz be appointed to the Resources Committee.

2.4 Link Governor appointments

It was AGREED that a list should be brought to the next meeting and appointments made then.

2.5 Governor Training and Training needs

It was recognised that with the recent appointments to the Governing Board it would be a good time to conduct a Skills Audit and from that training needs could be identified.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken

Updates on actions from the previous meeting were given and recorded on the Action Log above.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

4 Safeguarding

SC delivered a presentation beginning with legislative requirements in respect of

safeguarding and progressing to how this was managed in school with particular reference to the safeguarding of pupils with SEND. She highlighted the update to the PREVENT Duty and recommended the Safeguarding for Governors Training available within Governor Hub. She also demonstrated how staff could make a report using the 'My Concern' facility.

The Chair enquired about the number of students represented by the recorded Section 24 concerns and was advised that it did include multiple concerns for some individual students. There was no assumption of abuse or neglect although multiple concerns could indicate this. Examples were given of concerns that might be recorded in this way. It was confirmed that parents did call school to voice a concern; perhaps about their child's friends or what they were accessing online.

The Headteacher shared that there were currently a cluster of concerns about a group of students who were capable of travelling independently to and from school but were not able to identify when they were being targeted or understand what it meant to be in a gang. Three such students had been put on child protection plans and the school was working hard to support the young people and their parents. He highlighted that it had been necessary to be tenacious when persuading the police that with such vulnerable young people being missing for even a short period was a serious concern.

DH shared some suggested resources on gangs and similar matters for young people with SEND and these were welcomed, with SC pointing out that repetition of the messages in different formats was useful. It was noted that a session for parents on spotting signs of gang involvement or grooming was being planned. SC emphasised that it was not the school's role to conduct any kind of investigation about gang involvement but instead to focus on ensuring that school was a safe place.

A Governor asked whether there were any issues with misogynistic 'Andrew Tate type' material and it was confirmed that there were some. However, SC described the balance between addressing this and avoiding putting it into children's heads if it would not be there otherwise.

5 Potential School Expansion

KM introduced his report setting out the pros and cons of various types of school expansion and reminded Governors about previous discussions of the topic since June 2022. He emphasised his reluctance to have the school occupy two separate sites and instead focused on the options for expanding on the current site or adjoining sites. He also highlighted the significant difference it could make to have additional places in older years; facilitating taking in children for whom a mainstream secondary school place did not work out.

In discussion there was some clarification of the location of the local potential expansion sites mentioned in the report.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that potential school expansion should become a standing part of the Headteacher's report and each FGB meeting;
- (ii) that the Resources Committee should look in more detail at the potential plans.

6 Headteacher's Report

KM introduced his report and drew attention to the new Year 12 pathway and how it had not worked out as expected. He also highlighted that the Government's Autumn statement included additional funds for SEND students that at this school could be used towards a one-off expenditure and this would be put to the Resources Committee.

QUESTION: Support Staff absences appear to be high - what does this mean? And was it worth considering a two-week half term in October?

ANSWER: The figures mostly reflect individuals with known health conditions and these figures were routinely reviewed by the Resources Committee. It was hoped that the new SBM would build relations and address the overall situation. Conversations had been had

about a two-week half-term but implementing this was not straightforward in a maintained school.

7 Reports from Committees and Working Parties

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 27 January 2025 be noted;
- (ii) that the minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting held on 3 February 2025 be noted;
- (iii) that the report on the School Improvement Partner Visit made on 14 November 2025 be noted.

8 Policies for Review and Approval

Governors had before them a schedule of policies and were advised that the SBM had been liaising with a Policy Adviser at LB Hackney and other SBMS in developing it.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the work commenced on preparing a policy schedule be noted;
- (ii) that the planned next steps in preparing a policy schedule be endorsed.

9 FGB Ways of Working and Future Agendas

Nothing reported.

10 School Events and Governor Visits

Nothing reported.

11 Date of Next Meetings

It was noted that the FGB was due to meet on the following dates:

- Monday, 19 May 2025 (online - budget)
- Monday, 7 July 2025

12 Any Other Urgent Business

Governors were informed that the school's photocopiers would be replaced at Easter, which was the end date of the current contract. The SBM stated that a good deal had been achieved in the new contract, with a significant saving, and the ICT Consultant was happy.

RESOLVED:

that the information on the five-year photocopier contract be shared with Governors for agreement by email in line with the scheme of delegation.

The meeting ended at 6.35pm

Beatrice Andrews
Chair