

## Governing Body of Stormont House School

**Minutes of the meeting held at the school  
on Monday 7 July 2025 at 5.00pm**

### Membership:

Name	Governor Type	Term of Office	Present
Beatrice Andrews (Chair)	Co-opted Governor	09/07/2027	Present
Dot Hodgson (DC) (Vice Chair)	Co-opted Governor	30/07/2026	Present
Mariana Cruz	Co-opted Governor	02/03/2029	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
Nicola Pizzolato (NP)	Co-opted Governor	20/06/2025	Apologies
Gary Pleasants (GP)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	Present
Justyna Sagan (JS)	Staff Governor	25/11/2028	Present
Vacancy	Local Authority Governor	-	-
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor	-	-
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor	-	-
Andre Deen-Swaray	Associate Member (Young Governor Programme)	-	Present (online)
Bernard Hawes	Associate Member	24/11/2027	Present (online)
Mark Mouna	Observer	-	Present (online)

### Also Present:

Sandra Collier (SC) - Deputy Headteacher  
Katie Foster (KF) - Deputy Headteacher  
Missy Brissett (MB)- Interim School Business Manager  
Silvi Shrestha (SS) - Clerk to the Governing Board

### Action Log

Date	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
07-07-2025 2.2.	Clerk to follow up with everyone about completing the register of pecuniary interest.	Donna Knight-Olds	July 2025	
07-07-2025 2.2	Kitty Kaur to set up Mark Mouna on Governors Hub.	Kitty Kaur	July 2025	
07-07-2025 2.3.	Clerk to share current Committee members list and Link Governor roles with Governors.	Donna Knight-Olds	July 2025	
07-07-2025 4	School to share the staff and pupil survey results with Governors.	Sandra Collier	Autumn Term	
07-07-2025 4	All Governors to complete the effectiveness survey.	All Governors	July 2025	
07-07-2025 9.	Business Manager to add a link in the H&S policy highlighting the changes in the role of Governors.	Missy Brissett	July 2025	

## 1. Attendance - Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Governors to the final FGB of the academic year. Introductions took place. Mark Mouna, who attended the meeting as an observer (but was nominated for a Co-opted Governor role) introduced himself referencing his valuable experience at the GLA, working extensively with children and young people.
- 1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Nicola Pizzolato.

## 2. Governing Body

### 2.1. Declarations of Interest - There were none

### 2.2. Register of Pecuniary Interests - Governors, especially the newly appointed Governors were reminded to complete the Register of Pecuniary Interest. The form is available on GovHub.

#### Action:

- i. Clerk to follow up with everyone about completing the register of pecuniary interest.
- ii. Kitty Kaur to set up Mark Mouna on Gov Hub.

### 2.3. Governing Body membership:

- i. The Vice Chair referenced her email to governors about appointing new governors, Mark Mouna and Andre Deen-Swaray, starting from September 2025. Mark Mouna brought a wealth of experience, working at GLA in youth participation. Andre Deen-Swaray had been with the school all year through the Council's young governors programme and also brings a wealth of experience. Both are great assets to the school.

#### RESOLVED:

1. Governors agreed unanimously to propose Andre Deen-Swaray as a Local Authority Governor.

2. Governors agreed unanimously to appoint Mark Mouna as a Co-opted Governor.

ii. Governors welcomed Mark Mouna and Andre Deen-Swaray to the Governing Board.

### **Membership of Committees**

Governors discussed and agreed for the current membership list to be circulated; for reference and for Governors to review and state if they are interested in joining any Committees.

**Membership of Committees** - The Chair highlighted the current Committee vacancies, including Chair of the Resources Committee due to NP stepping down. The Chair confirmed that she would chair the next Resources Committee meeting as a provisional measure. A substantive chair for that Committee would be appointed in the Autumn term.

The Headteacher further added that engagement was ongoing with potential candidates to fill the other 2 vacancies on the Board. Governors will be informed once plans are firmed.

It was noted that Link Governor roles were now confirmed.

**Action - Clerk to share the Committee members list and Link Governor roles with the Board.**

### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken**

3.1. It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting of 3 March 2025.

It was also noted that the actions from the last meeting were either complete or would be addressed as an agenda item at this meeting.

#### **3.2 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2025**

It was noted that Governors approved the budget for 2025/26 at the meeting of 19 May 2025. The budget has now been submitted to the local authority

3.3. **To note outstanding matters arising and agree to carry forward items** - There were none.

3.4 **Any urgent action taken since the last meeting** - There were none.

### **4. Main Business: Governing Body strategic input going forward**

The Vice Chair introduced this discussion item and invited all Governors to share ideas on how the Governing Board could work strategically and effectively. The following discussion took place;

- Governor away days in the school could provide them with a great opportunity to see the school in action, give them a helpful overview of school life and an opportunity to discuss topics and key issues with staff. Each governor could be allocated a class (if not too disruptive to pupils).
- Link Governors reports provide helpful insights about progress made against School Development Plan priorities. Governors should implement a rigorous practice of regular

link-visits and reporting back at meetings. Link visits could be spread across the academic year to accommodate staff capacity.

- WhatsApp and emails are effective forms of communication.
- BH advised that Governors should use priorities set out in the SDP as the starting point for setting their areas of focus. Governors' focus should be influenced by the strategic direction of the school. Governors' knowledge of staff and pupils and how they want to communicate will help direct the strategy document.
- Pupil surveys and staff surveys which are carried out at the start of the autumn term will provide helpful insights. **Action - School to share the survey results with Governors.**
- The School could provide an anonymised progress update of pupils for Governors to understand the trends.

**Governors' Strategy Day** - It was discussed and agreed for a half day strategy event to be scheduled. The structure of the event should accommodate SLT's capacity and availability. In order to make the event impactful the Governors could have pre-thought out questions and lines of enquiry to ask SLT.

RESOLVED:

- Agreed date for the Strategy Day - Thursday afternoon, 9th October 2025 (start with lunch, 1pm-5pm).
- GP volunteered to help develop the event.

**Board Effectiveness link:** The Headteacher demonstrated the effectiveness tool and asked Governors to complete the questions. The tool helps with self evaluation on effectiveness and to identify where skills are lacking. **Action - all Governors to complete the effectiveness survey.**

## 5. **Headteacher's Report**

The Headteacher provided the following key summary from the report which was shared with Governors ahead of the meeting;

- **Expansion** - Discussion was underway with the local authority about use of closed school sites to expand SEND school provisions. The discussion has paused due to a senior officer moving roles to a different location. Given the circumstance and scale of the project, the expansion of the special school estate is unlikely to be completed until January 2027. The risks around expansion have been removed from the Risk Register as they were hypothetical.
- **Recruitment** - A detailed report in this area will be shared with Governors. All teaching positions have now been recruited. In addition, 3 permanent TAs are now in place making the school staffing structure robust. The school has a good career progression pathway thus allowing for good retention of staff.
- **Key risk** - There have been issues with the quality of Y12 provision which the School has commissioned BSix to deliver. The NCC takeover of the running of BSix has caused unrest due to the uncertainty for staff and disrupted delivery of provision. Stormont House staff have worked closely with BSix and NCC to secure the quality of provision and onward progression routes that this course was set up to provide. The risk has been downgraded to amber. The situation is improving; pathways are secured for current Y12. Current Y11 with entry level vocational training looks better.

**Governor question** - What alternatives does the school have?

**Headteacher Answer** - To seek an external provider that provides courses that match students' interest; for e.g. media or catering. NCC runs all the college provisions locally. If students have a particular interest, the school would look for providers that offer entry level courses, to get them practical experience in their areas of interests.

**Governor Question** - What are the training options for post-16 education?

**Headteacher Answer:** The T&L Committee receives a report in this area for their better understanding. The Local Authority organised a 'Preparing for the Adulthood' event which will be an annual event starting last year. It is one of the 3 key priorities of the school.

**Governor Question** - On expansion, what would the ideal scenario be?

**Headteacher Answer** - The preferred option is to have a staged expansion that can be managed onsite. Currently, many pupils go on to secondary schools which do not accommodate their needs. An expansion internally would be manageable and better for pupils. The Local Authority needs to explore many questions and options first before making a decision - the School will continue to raise the issue with the Local Authority.

6. **OFSTED Framework** - It was noted that there was a delay to the publication of the Framework.

7. **Parental engagement**

The following discussion took place;

- GP was involved with transition day and reported that parents found the session very helpful. Parents were keen to engage with the school positively.
- The School is looking to relaunch friends of Stormont House. Engagement with parents has been helped by the new staff governor who planned a parent drop-in session and coffee morning.
- With regards to parent engagement, the School needs to think carefully about what it wants from parental engagement and ensure they are not adding to parents' workload. They could be given small projects to undertake, like the summer fete.
- The School could connect with them online - giving them online resources to access etc.
- **Uniform store** - A parent has helped revamp the uniform store. She took the uniforms from lost and found, washed them and reoffered to parents who were grateful for this support. She has also developed an online offer.
- Parent surveys in the autumn will help gauge their priorities.
- School is considering how to improve information sharing with parents, for e.g. opening up synergy to parents.
- Feedback from staff has also been positive on the engaged parents.
- Governors discussed raising the profile of the school, not just for parents but also to work with other schools. The School has great knowledge and practice on being inclusive, which would be helpful to share with other schools in Hackney. With the new Ofsted Framework likely to include an inclusion criteria, there may be opportunities to share good practice through teacher training and potentially develop a traded service in this area.

**Governor Question** - Could subject network meetings be an easier route into monetising through traded service?

**Headteacher Answer** - Mainstream schools are struggling with adaptive teaching. There is an appetite for that to happen. LA has an increased training offer, however, there is an opportunity to explore further.

**9. Policies for Review and Approval - update from the Business Manager**

The Business Manager provided the following updates;

A list of policies with a schedule for updates was available on Governors Hub. The School adopts a number of policies provided by the Local Authority. There are policies that need to be ratified annually. The school is thinking about efficient ways of reviewing school specific policies.

DH highlighted that there were changes to the Governors role which needs to be included in the Health & Safety Policy within the medical Needs section. **Action - Business Manager to add a link in the policy highlighting the changes.**

RESOLVED:

To receive the policies and ratify them subject to the above change.

**10. Proposed Meeting Dates 2025-26 (All on Mondays)**

- 24/11/25
- 02/03/26
- 18/05/26 (budget)
- 29/06/26

Governors **agreed** to the proposed dates.

**11. Any Other Urgent Business (notified in advance)**

GP queried whether there had been plans for implementation of schools street. The Headteacher explained that the Local Authority had approached the school about it, however, it would prevent children from arriving at the school in taxis and staff getting to work in a timely manner. As such, the school will not be implementing school street but would support a traffic management scheme.

The Headteacher thanked the Governors for their valuable contribution this academic year.

Meeting Close: 6.40pm

Beatrice Andrews  
Chair