



Governing Body of Stormont House School

Minutes of the meeting held at the school
on Monday 24 November 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
Emilio Bielsa (EB)	Co-opted Governor	23/11/2029	Present - online
Mariana Cruz (MC)	Co-opted Governor	02/03/2029	Present - online
Andre Deen-Swaray (ADS)	Local Authority Governor	04/08/2029	Present - online
Rhiannon Eglin (RE)	Co-opted Governor	04/10/2028	Present - online
Benazir Guha (BG)	Co-opted Governor	23/11/2029	Present - online
Judit Kimpian (JK)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	Present - online
Kevin McDonnell (KM)	Headteacher	-	Present
Mark Mouna	Co-opted Governor	06/07/2025	Present
Gary Pleasants (GP)	Parent Governor	06/01/2029	Present
Justyna Sagan (JS)	Staff Governor	25/11/2028	Present
Ophelia Carter (OC)	Associate Member	23/11/2029	Present - online
Colin Gall (CG)	Associate Member	23/11/2029	Present

Also Present:

Sandra Collier (SC) - Deputy Headteacher
Missy Brissett (MB)- Interim School Business Manager
Donna Knight-Olds (DK) - Clerk to the Governing Board

1. Attendance - Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Everyone introduced themselves. There were no apologies as all who were expected were present.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

It was noted that expressions of interest in the positions of Chair and Vice-chair had been invited prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Beatrice Andrews be elected Chair of the Governing Body for 2025-26;
- (ii) that Dot Hodgson be elected Vice-chair of the Governing Body for 2025-26.

3. Governing Body Organisation

3a) Declarations of Interest

None.

3b) Register of Pecuniary Interests

All were reminded to register their interests on Governor Hub.

3c) Governing Body Membership

The prospective Co-opted Governors and Associate Members each described a little of their background and reasons for wishing to join the Governing Body. Governors were very pleased to have a complete Governing Body with no vacancies after such a long time.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Emilio Bielsa be appointed as a Co-opted Governor;
- (ii) that Benazir Guha be appointed as a Co-opted Governor;
- (iii) that Ophelia Carter be appointed as an Associate Member;
- (iv) that Colin Gall be appointed as an Associate Member.

3d) Governor Hub Board Effectiveness Tool

Governors were thanked for completing the Board Effectiveness Tool. DH stated that she had reviewed the collated outcomes and that it appeared that there was broad coverage of key skills across the board.

3e) Governor Training and Training Needs

The following training areas were flagged as important:

- Suspensions and Exclusions
- Complaints
- Data Analysis
- Finance and Budgets

It was noted that a summary of the online training being offered by LB Hackney had recently been shared and the Clerk specifically mentioned training for new Governors being delivered by herself and Maggie Kalnins (Leader of Governance) later that week. The Chair emphasised the

value of attending the local authority forum meetings. Judit Kimpian spoke about training she had recently attended about the research being done into fetal alcohol syndrome.

3f) **Link Governor Role and Expectations**

Governors were advised that Link Governors were expected to visit once per term and write up a report on the visit. Visit focuses should align with priorities from the School Development Plan. The required and recommended Link Governor roles were listed. The Chair also spoke about the positive experience she had recently had coming into school and meeting Year 10 pupils in relation to their work experience interviews.

3g) **Link Governor Appointments**

RESOLVED:

(i) that Link Governor appointments be made as follows:

- Safeguarding - Beatrice Andrews (Lead) and Judit Kimpian (Deputy/shadow)
- SEND (with teaching & learning and inclusion) - Rhiannon Eglin (Lead) and Colin Gall (support)
- Careers - Gary Pleasants
- Governor training and development - Dot Hodgson
- Student Voice - Mark Mouna
- Health and Safety - not to be a Link Governor position but Beatrice Andrews to hold lead responsibility as Chair of Resources Committee
- Parent & Carer Engagement - no appointment yet but to be thought about for the future

(ii) that a Governor Visit Report template be developed. **[ACTION: DH]**

4. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2025 be APPROVED as an accurate record.

5. **Headteacher's Report**

It was recognised that much information within the report had been presented to the committees. The Headteacher pointed out that the Teacher Pay Award being funded by the government had meant the budget was not in deficit and mentioned that the next Resources Committee would be considering the staffing structure.

6. **Safeguarding**

No concerns were raised. Governors were reminded of the requirement to read the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 guidance and to confirm on Governor Hub that they had done so. It was noted that all staff had been trained on KCSIE 2025.

RESOLVED:

that the the Annual Safeguarding Report be APPROVED;

7. **School Improvement Partner (SIP) Visit Report**

Governors were informed that the first visit by the new SIP had been postponed until December 2025.

8. School Development Plan

Governors had before them the School Development Plan 2025-27 as informed by the Governor Day held in July 2025; accompanied by a review of progress and impact of the previous SDP. It was noted that the Teaching and Learning Committee had spent time talking about the Digital Standards and ICT Strategy.

9. Governor Ideas (Strategy Day)

DH described the aims of the Strategy Day held on 9 October 2025. She highlighted the ideas for Governor-led projects and sought input as to which would be most beneficial to the school. It was recognised that the ideas could be explored across the year and appropriate timing be considered. Governors contributed to the document during the meeting and the following emerged in discussion:

- ADS had discussed the potential ways his company could contribute their expertise to the curriculum and KM welcomed how the idea had progressed from the suggestion of an event to a relationship
- DH offered to lead on fundraising with the Pupil Survey as a source for ideas for priorities to target

RESOLVED:

that the Governor Ideas from Strategy Day be kept as a standing item on FGB agendas.

10. Reports from Committees and Working Parties

Reports from the Resources Committee and from the Teaching and Learning Committee were noted.

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

MB introduced the draft Policy Planner as a demonstration of what was being developed but acknowledged it still had a way to go. The policies before Governors were accompanied by a document summarising the proposed changes

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the **Pay Policy** be APPROVED as presented;
- (ii) that the **Safer Recruitment & Selection Policy** be APPROVED as presented;
- (iii) that the **Code of Conduct** be APPROVED as presented;
- (iv) that the **Probation Policy** be APPROVED as presented;
- (v) that the **Induction Policy** be APPROVED as presented;
- (vi) that the **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy** be APPROVED as presented;

12. External Matters

KM urged all Governors to read the update on the new OFSTED Framework and stated that during the year the school would be updating its Self-evaluation Form (SEF) to mirror the framework.

It was also noted that there were two years for the school to implement the implications of Martyn's Law for education settings; guidance had been sought from the local authority and the Resources Committee would keep this matter under review.

13. Proposed Meeting Dates 2025-26

It was noted that the FGB would meet on the following dates at 5.00pm:

- Monday, 2 March 2026
- Monday, 18 May 2026 (online, budget)
- Monday, 29 June 2026

14. Any Other Urgent Business (notified in advance)

Local Authority Officers as Governors

The Governing Body was informed that there had been guidance from the Director of Education and Inclusion that local authority officers should not be appointed to the Governing Bodies of maintained schools and those already in position might be asked to stand down at the end of this academic year. Concern was expressed at this change in policy, which would affect DH and RE and many others across Hackney schools. KM stated that he would raise this concern with the Director of Education and Inclusion.

Christmas Lunch

SC pledged to share an invite with all Governors for Christmas Lunch, which would also be Christmas jumper day.

15. Confidential Matters

None.

Meeting Close: 6.25pm

Beatrice Andrews
Chair