

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Stormont House School
held at the school at 5pm on Monday 1 July 2024**

Membership:

| Name | Governor Role | Link Role | Term of Office |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bernard Hawes | Co-opted – Chair | Safeguarding | 25/11/2023-24/11/2027 |
| Beatrice Andrews | Co-Opted – Vice Chair | Careers | 10/07/2023-09/07/2027 |
| Kevin McDonnell | Head Teacher | | Ongoing |
| Rhiannon Eglin | Co-opted | | 05/10/2024-04/10/2028 |
| Dot Hodgson | Co-opted | Student Council | 31/07/2022-30/07/2026 |
| Claire Napier | Staff | | 01/09/2019-31/08/2023 |
| Dayo Okewale | Co-opted | 6 th Form | 23/11/2020-22/11/2024 |
| Nicola Pizzolato | Co-opted | | 21/06/2021-20/06/2025 |
| Allan Roddie | Parent | H&S | 14/03/2022-13/02/2026 |

Present:

Bernard Hawes
 Beatrice Andrews
 Kevin Mc Donnell (By MS Teams)
 Dot Hodgson (By MS Teams)
 Claire Napier
 Dayo Okewale (By MS Teams for part of meeting)
 Allan Roddie (Part of meeting)

In Attendance:

Sandra Collier Deputy Head Teacher

Clerk:

Nyree Hughes Hackney Education Governor Services

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

| Date and Item | Action | Responsible | Date Due | Update |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 21.06.2021 | Governors interested in discussing the Chair role to contact Chair | Governors | ASAP | Completed |
| 28.11.2022 | Circulate the Board Self-Evaluation questionnaire to governors | Chair | ASAP | Completed |
| 20.03.2023 | Liaise with Ms Andrews regarding unconscious bias training | Ms Foster | ASAP | Ongoing |
| 10.07.2023 | Governors to consider their own networks for a suitable Governor | Governors | ASAP | Ongoing |

| | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------|------|--|
| 27.11.2023 | Distribute pecuniary interest forms and compile register for the current academic year | School Business Manager | ASAP | Completed |
| 27.11.2023 | Explore the possibility of Alumni as Governors | Ms Napier | ASAP | Ongoing |
| 04.03.2024 | Upload 6 potential Governor CVs to Governor portal | Chair | ASAP | Ongoing |
| 04.03.2024 | Arrange for Mr Sykes to deliver training at 20 th May FGB | Ms Collier | ASAP | Completed |
| 04.03.2024 | Clarify if Chair of Governors to sign off CSR statement | Ms Collier | ASAP | Completed |
| 01.07.2024 | Liaise on Staff Governor elections and let Governors know dates for whole staff session | Ms Napier and Ms Foster | ASAP | |
| 01.07.2024 | Request Ms Andrews is added to the circulation list for the termly Hackney Governors' Forum invitations | Clerk | ASAP | Completed |
| 01.07.2024 | Contact Hackney Education for any guidance or details on the Hackney Young Governors framework and what support could be offered to the school or the young governors | Clerk | ASAP | Completed. Initial enquiry sent to Governor Services |
| 01.07.2024 | Update the website introduction and recruitment information with Ofsted result | Head Teacher | ASAP | |
| 01.07.2024 | Enquire as to when a staff survey would best be completed | Head Teacher | ASAP | |
| 01.07.2024 | Speak to finance to explore the parameters and amounts regarding the voluntary fund | Head Teacher | ASAP | |
| 01.07.2024 | Check that the contracts for the library build and fit out were fully signed off | Head Teacher | ASAP | |

The meeting started at 5.05pm

1 Attendance

1.1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Ms Eglin and Mr Pizzolato.

2 Governing Body Organisation

2.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2.2 Register of Pecuniary Interest

The Register of Pecuniary Interests was completed in April.

2.3 Governing Body Membership and Recruitment

The Board **agreed** that Co-opted Governor Ms Eglin would serve a further term of four years from the expiry of her current term of office. Ms Eglin was not present but had previously expressed her interest in staying on the Board.

The Staff Governor election process would be actioned for the autumn term. The vacancy would be discussed with staff in a whole-staff session and also at 1-2-1s in terms of professional development.

Action: Ms Napier and Ms Foster to liaise on Staff Governor elections and to let Governors know dates for whole staff session.

2.4 Appointment of Chair for 2024/25

The Board **agreed** on Ms Andrews as the Chair of Governors from 1 September 2024. Ms Hodgson was **agreed** as Vice-Chair of Governors from the same date.

2.5 Governor Training and Training needs

Mr Okewale joined the meeting.

Action: Clerk to request that Ms Andrews is added to the circulation list for the termly Hackney Governors Forum invitations.

The Chair reported that safeguarding training had been delivered at the May Board meeting, and had been well received. Ms Collier had shared some materials on risks to students from the training with staff at CPD sessions.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken

3.1 To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 20th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting of 20th May 2024 were **agreed** as a true record.

3.2 To note outstanding matters arising and agree carry forward items

Mr Roddie joined the meeting.

The governors discussed the possibility of recruiting Alumni to the board and in tying in with the Hackney Young Governors initiative. Ms Napier had approached two ex-students.

Action: Clerk to contact Hackney Education for any guidance or details on the Hackney Young Governors framework and what support could be offered to the school or the young governors.

The board noted that the wider skills need when recruiting governors was around finance.

See also action table above.

3.3 Any urgent action taken since the last meeting

The Chair explained that the Interim School Business Manager, who had joined in January, had left as it had been agreed with him that the role was not a fit. The current team were currently looking at where the resultant risks were and an advertisement for a permanent position would be placed after the summer break.

4 Main Business

4.1 Ofsted Inspection and Report: review and agree follow-up actions

The school had retained its Outstanding status in the recent Ofsted inspection. Ms Napier explained that Ofsted had been impressed that all governors had attended. The Chair remarked that Ofsted understood that the governors provided challenge.

The Head Teacher reported that Ofsted had looked at the school's plans to develop reading further and its plans for the library. Ofsted had concluded that the school had identified the right areas for development and had the right capacity to move forward. An action plan, including points from the SIP, would be summarised for governors.

Q: Has the school advertised the success on the website or outside the school?

A: We are reluctant as there has been some upset over single word judgements and some schools have been advised to consider the impact on neighbouring schools. It can be used as an enrolment drive and we use it when recruiting staff. There's not much else to be gained. A note has gone to parents and others who work closely with the school know the outcome.

Q: Has the outcome been incorporated into the school message?

A: The website introduction and recruitment information need to be updated.

Action: Head Teacher to update the website introduction and recruitment information with Ofsted result.

4.2 Hackney Schools' Charter on Race and SEND: review and adopt

The Head Teacher explained that the LA had requested that schools sign up to the new Charter on Race and SEND. The school had been involved in discussions around the SEND aspect of the document, although the final version did not exactly reflect what the school had advised. It was expected that the charter would evolve.

The board **agreed** to sign up to the charter. The Head Teacher would revisit the school's equality action plan and the charter would also be discussed at the Resources Committee to decide on specific actions.

Ms Hodgson explained that there was a London wide inclusion charter that had been launched by the Mayor in February. It was thought that Hackney was the only borough currently seeking to get public commitment from schools. The governors also discussed wanting to see concrete plans from the borough on what happened next and also what the borough could do to support schools in that.

4.3 Receive an update on planned increase in SEND places

The Head Teacher explained that there was no further news on the planned increase in SEND places in borough. He would seek an update. It was also noted that the school was in the second financial year of the three-year funding agreement.

Q: Have the LA made any progress on reducing SEND deficit?

A: No information has been shared but I will keep raising it.

5 Head Teacher's Report

Governors noted the previously circulated Head Teacher's Report.

The Head Teacher drew attention to the fact that persistent absences had reduced slightly, however these did sometimes increase at the end of term. There had been intensive work on absences including follow ups with parents.

Q: Are we through the Covid hangover for absences?

A: Yes, there are no sharp spikes now, for example with pupils unable to return due to mental health. Attitudes have changed since Covid though, and attendance is lower than pre-pandemic nationally.

Q: Is there a rise in Covid cases?

A: It's not possible to say for sure as most people are not tested now. The level of absence from sickness is static. The school is asking for medical evidence now, more than before.

Q: How many Year 7s are expected in September?

A: Between 20 and 22 depending on the outcome of two tribunals.

Q: Is it possible to do a staff survey?

A: It is usually conducted around now.

Action: Head Teacher to enquire as to when a staff survey would best be completed.

Ms Napier explained that she would be looking at the staff survey as part of the Human Kind Wellbeing Awards project.

6 Safeguarding

Ms Collier explained that the 2024 KCSiE would be covered with staff at the Inset day. All staff were required to sign to say they understood the document and that there was nothing that might affect their DBS. This might be extended to governors.

7 Reports from Committees and Working Parties

7.1 Resources

The governors noted the previously circulated minutes of the Resources Committee, which were taken as read.

7.2 Teaching and Learning

The governors noted the previously circulated minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee, which were taken as read.

7.3 School Improvement Partner - Update on recent visits

The Head Teacher explained that the report from the recent SIP would be circulated once it was final. The visit had been positive, and the report format was being revised to make it more useful for governors. The visit provided a useful sounding board for the SEF and provided clear follow up actions.

7.4 Governor Visit Reports

There were no governor visit reports.

8 Any Other Business

Library

Ms Hodgson had circulated an update on the library redevelopment. She explained that the builders would be building the wall in the second week of August. Ms Foster would endeavour to organise for the internal fitter to complete their work directly after this. A further option would be to complete the work in weekends if not over the school holiday.

There had not been as much fundraising activity as expected. There had been a budget of £5k to raise for books by the end of December. Ms Foster would create a Go Fund Me page online by the following week, which governors, teachers and parents could help promote.

Governors discussed the dormant voluntary fund account as another way of helping fund the library project. There was also £500 from the literacy curriculum budget available. Another option was to advance the money by paying this year but effectively using the slight surplus for the following year. This was **agreed** by governors.

Action: Head Teacher to speak to finance to explore the parameters and amounts regarding the voluntary fund.

Q: Are there any grants available?

A: We've researched that, but no. There has been a donation from staff. The Go fund Me page will be publicised to parents in the newsletter and feedback on the project will also be invited. Form tutors will also be asked to talk through the information with the students.

It was **agreed** that the Chair and Head Teacher would be tasked with sign off of the final details of the books in due course.

Ms Hodgson explained that there would be a launch and naming event in the next term.

Action: Head Teacher to check that the contracts for the build and fit out were fully signed off.

Skills Audit

The Clerk offered to initiate a skills audit of governors early in the autumn term to enable this to be collated by the autumn board meeting. It was **agreed** that this was not needed at present as the board composition had not changed since the last exercise.

9 Dates of Next Meetings

The school would circulate meeting dates for 2024-25.

The meeting ended at 6.22pm



25.11.24

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Signed: Chair of Governors

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Date