

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of
Stormont House School held at 4pm on Monday 21 June 2021 by videoconference**

Membership:

Name	Role	Term of Office
Mr Bernard Hawes	Co-opted Governor – Chair	25/11/2019-24/11/2023
Ms Lynn Dalton	Co-opted Governor – Vice-Chair	25/11/2019-24/11/2023
Mr Kevin McDonnell	Head Teacher	Ongoing
Ms Beatrice Andrews	LA Governor	25/03/2019-24/03/2023
Ms Rhiannon Eglin	Co-opted Governor	05/10/2020-04/10/2024
Ms Dot Hodgson	Co-opted Governor	20/03/2018-31/07/2022
Ms Claire Napier	Staff Governor	01/09/2019-31/08/2023
Mr Dayo Okewale	Co-opted Governor	23/11/2020-22/11/2024

Present:

Mr Bernard Hawes	Co-opted Governor – Chair
Ms Lynn Dalton	Co-opted Governor – Vice-Chair
Mr Kevin McDonnell	Head Teacher
Ms Beatrice Andrews	LA Governor (joined at 17.03)
Ms Rhiannon Eglin	Co-opted Governor
Ms Dot Hodgson	Co-opted Governor
Mr Dayo Okewale	Co-opted Governor
Ms Claire Napier	Staff Governor (joined at 17.03)

In attendance:

Ms Toni Altinok	Leadership Team PA
Ms Grainne Hylton	School Business Manager
Ms Frances Jessie	Deputy Head Teacher
Ms Judith Enenmoh	Potential Co-opted Governor
Mr Nico Pizzolato	Potential Co-opted Governor

Clerk:

Ms Nyree Hughes	Hackney Education Governor Services
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SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Date	Details
06.07.20	Ms Andrews and the School Business Manager to update Parent Governor information and commence recruitment in autumn term. Completed
23.11.20	Head Teacher to check register of interests completed and published for 2020/21. Completed
15.03.21	Chair, Vice-Chair and Head Teacher to agree a Chair job description for the next meeting (summer term). Completed
15.03.21	Clerk to add Chair job description as agenda item for next meeting (summer term). Completed

15.03.21	Mr Okewale to meet with Chair and Vice-Chair. Update: Vice-Chair to arrange.
15.03.21	Clerk to change records to reflect new Vice-Chair in September.
15.03.21	Ms Andrews to link up with Ms Napier and Ms Hylton to work on Parent Governor recruitment. Ongoing
15.03.21	Ms Eglin and Ms Jessie to discuss potential measures around system crashing (My Concern). Update: To be completed summer term.
15.03.21	Head Teacher to share video around Taxonomy. Ongoing
21.06.21	Governors interested in discussing the Chair role to contact Chair.
21.06.21	Clerk to circulate skills audit questionnaire to Governors in September and add to November FGB agenda.

1 Attendance

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, including potential Co-opted Governors Ms Enemoh and Mr Pizzolato.

All attendees introduced themselves. Mr Pizzolato was from a higher education background and Ms Enemoh was the Inclusive Learning Manager at City and Islington College.

2 Governing Body Organisation

2.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

2.2 Register of Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2.3 Governing Body Membership and Recruitment

The Board noted that there were currently two Co-opted Governor vacancies and two Parent Governor vacancies. Two potential Co-opted Governors were in attendance. There was one potential new Parent Governor who had not been able to attend the meeting, however she would potentially join the Resources Committee and be a Link Governor for the Student Council.

See also item 9.

2.4 Chair Job Description

The Board noted the previously circulated Chair's Job Description.

Action: Any Governors interested in discussing the role further should contact the Chair.

2.5 Governor Training and Training Needs

There was no new training to record.

See also 2.6 below.

2.6 Skills Audit

The Board discussed the merits of completing a skills audit. Governors **agreed** that this would be a useful exercise and may inform future training needs.

Action: Clerk to circulate skills audit form to Governors in September, with the collated results to be discussed at the November FGB.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken

3.1 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 15th March 2021 were **agreed** as a true record.

3.2 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 24th May 2021 were **agreed** as a true record subject to the following:

- In 2.1, 'grants for Teachers Pensions and Teachers Pay totalling £100,000 received in 2020/21' should read 'grants for Teachers' Pensions and Teachers' Pay totalling £100,000 received in 2020/21 Pay totalling £100,000'.
- In 3.1 'the appointment starting 1st September' should read 'the appointment starting 1st September'.

3.3 To note outstanding matters and agree carry forward items

See action summary above.

3.4 Any Urgent Action Taken since the Last Meeting

There was no Chair's action.

4 Main Business

4.1 Strategic Priorities 2020/21

The Board reviewed the previously circulated SDP Interim Evaluation.

The current SDP had been developed in the autumn term before the school went back into lockdown. The Head Teacher explained that each area of the SDP was assigned to a Committee to examine progress.

The third SIP visit of the year had taken place the previous week, and progress made in all three areas of Preparing for Adulthood, Visible Learning and Wellbeing.

The SDP was ambitious, which had resulted in some activities being rated amber to indicate partial impact or progress. No activities had been entirely parked, however some resources for the Visible Learning actions had to be diverted into remote learning in order to deliver live lessons online from January. Some activities for the Wellbeing priority had been delayed due to a key member of staff isolating due to medical advice. Some infrastructure had been put in place but not yet fully utilised.

The Chair had reviewed Safeguarding provision, as Safeguarding Link Governor.

The Head Teacher reported that the staff consultation had gone well and the restructuring of the administration team was mostly completed. The outcome fed into the Safeguarding capacity and allowed for a Welfare and Safeguarding role within the Curriculum team.

A working group had been formed to take forward aspects of the Student and Parent/Carer Priorities as this had been harder to achieve due to lockdown. Priority 5 around Improved Efficiency and Effectiveness had been partially completed.

Question: Have groups of staff been able to meet?

Answer: We had planned to run larger open sessions that were not top down conversations like a business meeting. An on-screen discussion hasn't felt like the right way to conduct these sessions, but it will be revisited.

The Chair requested that the Head Teacher pass on the Board's thanks to all staff for their hard work under difficult circumstances. The priorities would be revisited again over the next year.

4.2 Staff and Pupil Wellbeing

Ms Jessie reported that only one child had not returned after lockdown and a few further children were being monitored. There was a focus on play once per week for every child, and this was currently ongoing. The risk assessment had been updated since the reopening of the school for all pupils.

Question: Are the children back to normal at school?

Answer: They are almost back to normal.

Question: How is the relationship with the staff?

Answer: We are gently but firmly reaffirming what is important to us.

5 Head Teacher's Report

Governors reviewed the previously circulated Head Teacher's Report.

The Head Teacher reported that there was currently a lot of pressure on SEN places in Hackney. The LA had established that there was more demand than supply across the borough and were seeking early views on expansion of facilities rather than send children out of the borough. The Head Teacher planned to meet with the Board and Committee Chairs in the first instance to discuss this and any associated risks.

The Board discussed the school roll for September, which was expected to be 141 or 142. In theory the school could take 160 in classrooms, however that might not make sense curriculum-wise. Additionally, if students were joining in Year 12 they were only on site for three days per week. Pre-Supported Internship students could be managed so as not to put pressure on capacity. The Head Teacher explained that the school might need a satellite site to increase capacity.

Question: Could classes be upped from 10 to 12 students?

Answer: 12 in lower classes would need an additional TA. Adding students to higher classes is more manageable.

6 Safeguarding

6.1 Safeguarding Update

Ms Jessie reported that there had been an increase in safeguarding concerns being raised. There had also been an increase in referrals to Social Care. The school had access to a consultation line, which was being more decisive than previously, and it was felt that all those involved were currently very vigilant.

Some causes for concern were around social media issues, and these were proving easier to explore now that students were on site. As well as an increase in referrals to social care, other organisations such as Young Hackney were also being utilised. Some agencies did not have a designated liaison person allocated, however there was still good communication.

7 Reports from Committees and Working Parties

7.1 Resources

The previously circulated minutes of the Resources Committee of 10th May 2021 were taken as read and there were no questions.

7.2 Teaching and Learning

The previously circulated minutes of the Teaching and Learning Committee of 8th March 2021 were taken as read and there were no questions.

7.3 Strategic Leadership Group

The SLG had not met since the last Board meeting.

7.4 SIP Visit 2

The previously circulated report from SIP visit 2 on 31st March 2021 was taken as read and there were no questions.

8 Policies for Review and Approval

8.1 Safeguarding

The Board reviewed the previously circulated updated Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The Chair explained that he had reviewed the policy in depth. It was comprehensive and based on the Hackney Education policy with slight modifications made for the school.

The Board **agreed** the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

8.2 SEN

The Board reviewed and discussed the previously circulated SEND Information Report and SEND Policy. These had been discussed by the Teaching and Learning Committee and had been recommended to the Board.

The SEND Policy had been modelled on The Key's template.

The Board **agreed** the SEND Information Report and Policy, subject to the Policy being topped and tailed and some detail added as to Governor involvement.

The Policy would be added to the website once finalised.

8.3 Health and Safety

The amended Health and Safety policy would be reviewed by the Resources Committee in two weeks' time.

9 Date of Next Meetings

The Board noted the dates of the meetings for 2021/22 as:

Monday 8th November 2021

Monday 14th March 2022

Monday 23rd May 2022 (Approval of Budget)

Monday 27th June 2022

The Chair reminded Governors that it was Ms Jessie's last Board meeting as she would be leaving the school at the end of term. He thanked Ms Jessie for her work over the previous eight years; she had been a tremendous asset to the school on Safeguarding and Inclusivity.

Ms Enenmoh and Mr Pizzolato were happy to join the Board as Co-opted Governors. They then left the meeting for the Board to discuss the potential appointments.

The Board **agreed** the appointments of Ms Enemoh and Mr Pizzolato as Co-opted Governors for a four-year term. Ms Enemoh would join the Resources Committee and Mr Pizzolato would join the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm

(Signed) 
(Chair of Governing Body)

13th September 2021

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Signed: Chair of Governors

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Date