

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Stormont House School
held at the school at 5pm on Monday 20 March 2023**

Membership:

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

Present:

Bernard Hawes
Beatrice Andrews
Kevin Mc Donnell
Rhiannon Eglin
Dot Hodgson
Claire Napier
Nicola Pizzolato

In attendance:

Sandra Collier Deputy Head Teacher
Katie Foster Deputy Head Teacher
Grainne Carpenter School Business Manager

Clerk:

Nyree Hughes Hackney Education Governor Services

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Date	Details
15.03.21	Head Teacher to share video around Taxonomy. Completed
21.06.21 and 08.11.21	Governors interested in discussing the Chair role to contact Chair. Ongoing
26.06.22	Head Teacher to bring detailed action plan re unconscious bias to the Board. Included in Equality and Diversity Policy. Completed
26.06.22	Clerk to add unconscious bias item to future agendas. Closed

28.11.22	Ms Hodgson to arrange a meeting with the Chair. Closed
28.11.22	Governors to attend appropriate training from Hackney and attend Governors Forum where possible. Ongoing
28.11.22	Chair to circulate the Board Self-Evaluation questionnaire. Ongoing
28.11.22	Ms Foster to circulate a sheet of headlines for Governors. Closed. See AOB
28.11.22	Chair to investigate any NGA guidance on Ofsted questions for Governors. Closed. See AOB
28.11.22	Ms Foster to compile visible learning data analysis for the whole programme. Ongoing. One-page summary to be produced.
28.11.22	Clerk to repeat the skills audit in the newer NGA format in autumn 2023
20.03.23	Chair, Ms Andrews and Ms Hodgson to finalise safeguarding training and inform Governors
20.03.23	Ms Foster to liaise with Ms Andrews regarding unconscious bias training
20.03.2023	Head Teacher to arrange for the SDP Focussed Priorities summary document to be added to the website
20.03.2023	Clerk to add Link Governor information to minutes - Completed
20.03.2023	Head Teacher to find out if SEF is leadership team or Governing Body document
20.03.2023	Governors to send any feedback on the SDP Focussed Priorities document, or questions on the SEF, to the Head Teacher
20.03.2023	Governors to email the Head Teacher with any suggestions for rewording the statement around student diversity
20.03.2023	Governors to check their profile on the school website and inform the school if it is not correct or current
20.03.2023	Ms Napier to arrange for school events calendar to be shared with Governors. This could potentially be added to the agenda for meetings

1 Attendance

1.1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Ms Enenmoh, Mr Roddie, Mr Okewale and Ms Wickham.

2 Governing Body Organisation

2.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

2.2 Register of Pecuniary Interest

There were no changes to the Register of Pecuniary Interest.

2.3 Appointment of Chair

Ms Hodgson had previously expressed potential interest in the role of Chair but had since decided not to take this further.

2.4 Membership and Recruitment

The Board noted that there was currently one vacancy for a Co-Opted Governor. Ms Andrews had contacted Governors for Schools and would follow this up again.

2.5 Governor Training and Training Needs

The Chair had attended the online Hackney Governors Forum and reported that the LA was considering what to do regarding surplus places in Hackney. He had also attended safeguarding training and circulate the slides to Governors.

Mr Pizzolato had enrolled on the Good Governance Foundation Course for a future date.

The Head Teacher reported that the school was planning safeguarding training for Governors, specific to the school. The Board discussed potential timings and methods for this training including holding it separate to the Board meeting, combining it with the May Board meeting and holding it online. It could also be recorded. Approximately one hour was needed. The Governors could also be shown the systems on site. The Chair, Ms Andrews and Ms Hodgson would take this further and circulate details to Governors.

Action: Chair, Ms Andrews and Ms Hodgson to finalise safeguarding training arrangements and inform Governors.

The Chair encouraged Governors to look at training available through Hackney LA.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Taken

3.1 To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 28th November 2022

The minutes of the meeting of 28th November were **agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3.2 To note outstanding matters arising and agree carry forward items

Ms Foster was sourcing unconscious bias training for Governors.

Action: Ms Foster to liaise with Ms Andrews regarding unconscious bias training.

Ms Foster reported that content on the website had been reviewed and updated and there was also a new website planned.

3.3 Any urgent action taken since the last meeting

The Chair confirmed that there had been no urgent action taken.

4 Main Business

4.1 Review the updated School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors reviewed the March SEF, SDP Focussed Priorities summary document and SDP Forward Plan.

The Head Teacher explained that Parent/Carer Priorities had changed significantly. There was work being done to build a sense of community so that parents and carers felt they could call on each other. Previous events included information sessions and the winter fayre and other events were being planned, for example parent drop-ins.

The school was asking parents and carers what they needed but also providing information, such as through the school newsletter.

The Head Teacher reported that students were helping support each other with issues such as low mood and that student action teams were in place and sometimes providing solutions to issues that arose. Pupils were discussing issues in class and then reporting back to the Student Council. Ms Collier explained that proposals from the Student Council had to be formally presented for consideration.

The Head Teacher explained that the number of contributors to the Forward Plan had increased although there was a unified approach. For some areas activities would be completed in stages as the plan covered significant ground. Each team had an understanding of their progress against the plan and what standards they were aiming at. Although there was now no legal requirement to have a SEF it was a useful document internally. The Head Teacher invited Governors to particularly consider areas in the plan that were relevant to their governor role.

Question: Is it a way of reflecting on evidence?

Answer: Yes. The challenge is not to just write it for Ofsted but to make it more usable. It also serves to remind the team that evidence is clear.

Question: Why is there no timeline on the plan?

Answer: The timeline is still being decided as it could take some years.

Question: Is the SEF linked to improvements identified from the recent inspection?

Answer: It details activities and impact and acts as an aid memoire. Focus on improvement hasn't diminished.

Question: Is the Forward Plan set out by Ofsted inspection areas?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What is the wave model?

Answer: The first wave is all students getting the same curriculum. The second and third waves are what is provided over and above what is offered universally. We have identified three levels of provision and who is in what level. The wave model for emotional regulation is used to map out a class and see how we can bring the proportions in the higher categories. We are moving from a reactive to a proactive approach.

Question: Does Pupil Premium relate to the waves?

Answer: 65% of pupils are in the disadvantaged category. If we spend on the universal offer we have a greater reach, for example we are spending the majority on speech and language.

The Board **agreed** that the SDP Focussed Priorities summary document should be published on the school website. The SDP Forward Plan would be reviewed in detail at the relevant Committee meetings.

Action: Head Teacher to arrange for the SDP Focussed Priorities summary document to be added to the website.

Action: Clerk to add Link Governor information to minutes.

Action: Head Teacher to find out if SEF is a leadership team or Governing Body document.

Action: Governors to send any feedback on the SDP Focussed Priorities document, or questions on the SEF, to the Head Teacher.

Question: Do you do mock Ofsted interview panels?

Answer: Ofsted are not in favour of that.

4.2 Preparation for Ofsted

Governors reviewed the previously circulated document detailing improvements since the previous Ofsted visit.

This item was taken as read and there were no questions.

4.3 Receive an update on planned increase in SEND places

The Head Teacher explained that there was not much news on the planned increase in SEND places in the borough. It had initially seemed that the increase was imminent, but from more recent conversations it was planned to take effect from September 2025 or 2026.

Schools were seeing falling rolls across London and primaries were in scope for closure or amalgamation. There was also an amber-rated list of further schools that might be threatened with closure eventually. The arrangements for SEND provision would partly depend on what other school buildings came available through these closures.

Question: Is there pressure on our school roll?

Answer: Yes.

The Head Teacher further explained that the borough projections were that the number of EHCPs would not fall but overall numbers would, so EHCP pupils would form a larger percentage of the overall numbers. Stormont House could take some pupils but the only full solution would be to accommodate more children with special needs in mainstream schools.

4.4 Unconscious Bias training for Governors

See item 3.2 above.

5 Head Teacher's Report

Governors reviewed the previously circulated Head Teacher's Report and Pupil Premium Statement, which were taken as read.

The Head Teacher drew attention to the Parent-Carer priorities around engagement. Documentation had been reviewed and updated including the summary objectives for the students which had been written with reference to Preparation for Adulthood and the Education Inspection Framework. The Head Teacher requested feedback on the wording around the diversity of the students.

Action: Governors to email the Head Teacher with any suggestions for rewording the statement around student diversity.

6 Safeguarding

6.1 Discuss Safeguarding training and knowledge for Governors

See item 2.5 above.

7 Reports from Committees and Working Parties

7.1 Resources

Governors noted the previously circulated notes from the Resources Committee held on 6th March 2023.

This item was taken as read and there were no questions.

7.2 Teaching and Learning

Governors noted the previously circulated notes from the Teaching and Learning Committee held on 6th February 2023.

This item was taken as read and there were no questions.

7.3 School Improvement Partner

Governors reviewed the previously circulated report from the additional School Improvement Visit made on 2nd February 2023.

The Chair expressed a concern regarding the Computing report as work had not been completed to meet some of the previous objectives set.

Ms Foster explained that the school was aware of this and that an action plan was in place.

8 A.O.B

Ofsted

The Chair explained that the main message from the Ofsted training he had attended was that Governors should know their school including the staff, pupils, what is provided and the successes for pupils. Governor visits to the school were also important. Challenge should be shown in minutes for Board and committees. Safeguarding was also an important aspect of any inspection. Governor information on the website should be up to date.

Action: Governors to check their profile on the school website and inform the school if it is not correct or current.

The Chair had circulated the presentation slides from the Ofsted training and suggested that Governors use these to prompt themselves to increase their knowledge of the school.

Ms Napier reminded Governors that they were particularly welcome at school events including those that were not curriculum focussed.

Action: Ms Napier to arrange for the school events calendar to be shared with Governors. This could potentially be added to the agenda for meetings.

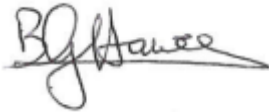
Question: Is the school doing anything for Autism Acceptance Week?

Answer: Yes, and also for National Down's Syndrome Day.

9 Date of Next Meetings

Governors noted the dates of the next meetings as Monday 22nd May 2023 (Budget Approval) and Monday 10th July 2023.

The meeting ended at 6.25pm



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Signed: Chair of Governors

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Date