



## Minutes of a Meeting of the Sir Thomas Abney School Governing Body 13 July 2015

**Present:** Leonie Allister (Chair), Sarah Finch, Geraldine Fitzmaurice (Headteacher), Michael Jacobs, Olalere Ladipo, Lisa Neidich, Ambreen Raja, Andrea O'Brien, Ivan Owen, Christopher Sills

**Apologies:** Aubrey Ellington, Simon Jackson, John Larter

**Clerk:** Susan Moyse

*Meeting opened 6.05 pm  
Leonie Allister in the Chair*

- |           |  | <b>Action</b>                    |
|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION</b>  |                                  |
| 1.1       | The Chair welcomed all present.  |                                  |
| 1.2       | Apologies for absence had been received from Aubrey Ellington (associate), Simon Jackson and John Larter. Michael Jacobs would be arriving late. It was <b>agreed</b> to vary the order of the agenda.   |                                  |
| 1.3       | There were no declarations of interest in this agenda and no changes to the register. Governors noted the new arrangements for recording interests. <b>Agreed</b> that the Clerk circulate the new format to include a section for information for the website.  | <b>All governors to complete</b> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>POLICIES</b>  |                                  |
| 2.1       | The Chair reported that she had taken Chair's Action to approve updates to the Safeguarding Policy. The governing body <b>agreed</b> to ratify the updated policy which had been circulated to all governors with the meeting papers.  |                                  |
| 2.2       | FGM – the Headteacher referred a governor to her full answer in the 18 June minutes saying there had been no change.   |                                  |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT: 3 FORM ENTRY</b>  |                                  |
|           | In response to the governing body's letter, the HLT Assistant Director (Schools) had met with the Headteacher at the school. No decisions had been made by HLT, pending the outcome of the consultation. Governors discussed the risk of further delays. The Headteacher reassured governors that the school would manage well during any expansion works. |                                  |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>GOVERNOR REPORTS</b>  |                                  |
| 4.1       | <b>Link reports</b><br>The Maths link report had been circulated to all governors. The Modern Foreign Languages report would follow.<br>The PE report was expected following John Larter's visit.  | <b>Head to circ MFL report</b>   |
| 4.2       | <b>Urgent action</b><br>The Chair had taken urgent action regarding the approval of the safeguarding policy (see above).   | <b>Clerk to request</b>          |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>HEAD'S UPDATE</b>   |                                  |
| 5.1       | The Head reported that Ofsted had inspected the school on 2–3 July. The judgements were confidential until the publication of the report which would be in the autumn term. The Headteacher said that she had confidence in the process and she thanked the governing body,  |                                  |

parents and staff for their support. The three governors who had been interviewed reported that the inspection of governance had been rigorous.

## 6. REORGANISATION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

### 6.1 Instrument of Government

The Working Party had submitted a draft Instrument of Government for approval to Hackney Learning Trust (annexed to these minutes). The draft had been circulated to all governors before the meeting but the signed version had not yet been received. However it had been reviewed by the Head of Governor Development who had not anticipated any problems.

The governing body discussed why two of the co-opted places were reserved for parents. The Vice Chair answered on behalf of the working group that they had wanted to preserve parents' voice on the governing body. They recognised that there had been difficulties in recruiting parent governors in the past but this appeared to have improved lately. The Vice Chair added that the reconstitution process (e.g. skills requirements, individual conversations) had been discussed with the Ofsted inspector who had considered it sensible.

The governing body **resolved** to adopt the new instrument, pending approval by Hackney Learning Trust.

### 6.2 LA Governors

Governors noted that there were three LA governors in post but only one LA vacancy in the new structure. Governors **agreed** that the governing body should hold a secret ballot to determine who would fill the LA post. Following a secret ballot counted by the Clerk and witnessed by the Vice Chair, the governing body elected Leonie Allister as its LA governor.

The core group of governors was thus completed:

### 6.3

1	4	Parent elected	Olalere	Ladipo*	06/01/2018
2		Parent elected	Andrea	O'Brien*	27/11/2016
3		Parent elected	Ambreen	Raja*	22/01/2018
4		Parent elected	vacancy		
5	1	Local authority	Leonie	Allister*	15/04/2016
6	1	Staff elected	Ivan	Owen*	01/11/2017
7	1	Headteacher	Geraldine	Fitzmaurice*	ex officio

### 6.4 Co-opted Governors

The core group of governors present (\*) then held a secret ballot, while others left the room, to determine whom to co-opt to the new structure. The Clerk counted and re-counted the ballot, witnessed by Ambreen Raja, and the following governors were co-opted for a four year term:

### 6.5

8	8	Co-opted (parent)	vacancy		
9		Co-opted (staff- any)	vacancy		
10		Co-opted (staff- teacher)	vacancy		
11		Co-opted	Sarah	Finch	12/07/2015
12		Co-opted	Simon	Jackson	12/07/2015
13		Co-opted	Michael	Jacobs	12/07/2015
14		Co-opted	John	Larter	12/07/2015
15		Co-opted	Lisa	Neidich	12/07/2015

Michael Jacobs gave his apologies and left the meeting at 7.15pm

6.6 The candidates returned to the room and the Chair explained that the vote had been remarkably close. She and the Headteacher thanked Christopher Sills for his many years of support to the school and community. They would consider how his service could be marked. In turn Christopher Sills wished the school well as it entered an exciting phase in its development. **Head/ Chair to consider award or similar**

**7. MINUTES**

7.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2015 had been circulated and were **agreed** as a correct record and signed by the Chair. **Clerk**

7.2 **Matters arising**  
There were no matters arising not already covered.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**9. GOVERNING BODY DEVELOPMENT**

9.1 Details of training opportunities offered by HLT had been circulated. **All governors to attend appropriate training**

**10. FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**10.1 Governor meetings 2015-16**

1 Oct 2015 Curriculum	14 Jan 2016 Resources	28 Apr 2016 Curriculum
15 Oct 2015 Resources	4 Feb 2016 Curriculum	12 May 2016 Resources
12 Nov 2015 Governing body	10 Mar 2016 Governing body	16 Jun 2016 Governing body

**10.2 HaSGA meetings**

- Wednesday - 8/07/2015
- Monday - 21/09/2015
- Tuesday - 24/11/2015 (Topic: Alternative Provision rather than Exclusions)
- Wednesday - 10/02/2016
- Monday - 21/03/2016
- Tuesday - 10/05/2016
- Wednesday - 29/06/2016

*There was no confidential business and the Chair closed the meeting at 7.20pm*

**Minutes prepared by:**  
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**Chair**

.....  
**Date**

