

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING held on Tuesday 9 May 2017 in the Conference Room.

PRESENT

Mr Ken Alexander
Mr Alister Cameron
Mr Anthony Daye
Mrs Anne Fraser
Dr Helen Kelly
Mr Kenny MacRae

Mrs Morag Munro
Professor Kevin O'Dell
Ms Janice Oliver
Professor Naveed Sattar
Mr Graham Short
Ms Fiona Wishlade

ATTENDING

Mr Richard Buchan
Miss Wendy Grant
Mrs Christine Robertson
Dr Paul Thomson

48/16/2017 APOLOGIES

No apologies.

49/16/2017 PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes and confidential minutes of 21 March were approved. The action plan was reviewed and the work plan discussed with future themes and dates noted.

50/16/2017 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

51/16/2017 RECTOR AND CONVENOR: ORAL UPDATE

Staffing Update

The Board was offered an update on current vacancies or staffing requests:

- Director of Fundraising – interviews 16 May; Board members were asked to indicate their availability to join the selection panel.
- Principal Teacher of Support for Learning has been re-advertised: 21 applicants
- One permanent teacher of Primary has been appointed (one vacancy remains).
- The School is still unclear on probationer allocations however expects to be advised by 12 May.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Update

The Bursar advised the Board of one FOI request formally received in January 2017. All requests for information are generally accepted and dealt with as business as usual requests without unnecessary formalities.

52/16/2017 BENCHMARKING REVIEW and BUDGET 2017-18

The Rector delivered a presentation and paper on a Benchmarking Review undertaken to inform dialogue with Scottish Government. This compares the School with the equivalent data published recently by the Information Service in the National Benchmarking Review. This indicates that the school is highly efficient in comparison with Scotland wide measures for local authority schools. In particular, the relative costs per pupil at Jordanhill compare highly favourably to the national benchmarks.

The Rector presented a draft budget for 2017-18 incorporating projections for 3 years to 2019-20. He highlighted the issues emerging, their relationship to the benchmarking exercise and the key points discussed with Scottish Government.

This analysis indicated that a more cost effective solution for the public purse would be to increase intake to the Secondary department. There is no scope for efficiency savings in Primary as all classes are already at the maximum. Practical classes in S1-S3 are likewise at maximum. Increasing the Secondary roll leads to significant efficiency gains in the Senior Phase.

53/16/2017 Budget 2016-17

The Bursar summarised the year end position for 2016-17 which will be formally presented at the Board meeting in June when the School auditors present their audit opinion. She also revisited school fees and charges and confirmed the proposals for action as offered in March.

54/16/2017 UNIVERSITY CAMPUS: CALA HOMES DEVELOPMENT

The Rector advised that JCC intended to lodge a Petition for judicial review of GCC's decision to approve the Section 75 Agreements. Legal advice to the School was that while JCC would almost certainly gain a protected expenses order (PEO) that this would not apply to the School which might consequently be open to substantial costs. Given that the arguments from the School do not differ in substance from those of JCC the further advice was that there would be nothing to gain by the School joining JCC in lodging the petition. The Board accepted this advice.

The Board also agreed that the School should advise all parents of the intentions of JCC, advertise their forthcoming public meeting and intimate the School's support for the principles underlying the petition.

55/16/2017 EQUALITIES

The final Mainstreaming Report was highlighted and approved with no objections. Attention as drawn to the statistics presented by Jordanhill School on Equal Pay.

56/16/2017 POLICY ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

This policy has been updated to reflect recent Scottish Government guidance. It was noted that the School's policy has been commended by the Humanist Society and is aligned to the School's journey as a Rights Respecting School.

In response to questions some details of links to faith organisations and the relationship between religious observance and the wider PSHE curriculum was provided.

The updated policy statement was approved.

57/16/2017 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

In consultation with the convenor, the Rector had prepared a review document exploring how the Governance of the school might evolve. This reflected the most recent (2017) guidance from DfES and other organisations representing school boards.

An extensive discussion took place around the competency framework, advice on Board membership and how these might best be reflected in our unique context.

It was agreed that co-opted members and Special Advisers play an important role on the Board and increasing the range of expertise available to the Board would be welcomed. There was an openness to change the numbers of parent and staff members to accommodate the possibility of more 'experts'.

The Board agreed to undertake a review of the existing skill set of its members which would inform further discussion at the next meeting. The aim would be to produce a paper to inform the thinking of the new Board in September.

58/16/2017 BOARD MEETINGS 2017-18

Draft meeting dates were circulated for review and noting. No comments were made.

59/16/2017 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2017

Convenor _____

Date _____