

Hackney Schools Group Board - Chair Nomination

CABINET MEETING DATE (2019/20) 16 September 2019	CLASSIFICATION: Open with exempt appendix
WARD(S) AFFECTED	
Group Director: Anne Canning, Children, Adults & Community Health	

1. Background

- 1.1 At their meeting on 29 April 2019, Cabinet approved the establishment of the Hackney Schools Group Board. Working together with the Director of Education and Council, the HSG Board will provide leadership and accountability for the Hackney schools system in line with the Council's Corporate Plan, Mayor's Priorities, as well as the Mayor's manifesto.
- 1.2 The Hackney Schools Group Board will act in an advisory role, championing educational excellence in the local school system through: promoting improvement and high standards, underpinning fair access and inclusion for all young people, and ensuring the equal promotion of wellbeing and good mental health in the school system.
- 1.3 As the practical manifestation of the Borough's school system leadership, the HSG Board (and its panels) will give school leaders a voice at the highest level in how pedagogy, curriculum, professional development, and staff and pupil wellbeing, change and develop in the future.
- 1.4 The right leadership for the HSG Board is essential, to ensure that educational professionalism, intellectual curiosity and desire to explore new approaches to teaching, learning and pupil welfare is the predominant driver in the Hackney school system. Getting the right Chair

will enhance the reputation and influence of the Board as a source of independent external expertise, providing diverse perspectives in the field of research and creativity in teaching, learning and child welfare.

- 1.5 A nomination committee, comprising of the Lead Member for Children's Services, the Group Director for Children, Adults & Community Health, the Director of Education, interviewed a number of applicants for the position in July 2019.
- 1.6 The nomination committee was unanimous in its decision on its recommendation to the Cabinet for this appointment.

Recommendations:

- 1.7 **That Cabinet notes the recommendation from the nomination committee, and confirms the appointment of the Chair of the Hackney Schools Group for a term of three years commencing on 1 October 2019 as set out in the exempt appendix.**

2. Responsibilities of the HSG Board Chair

- 2.1 The Chair of the Board of the HSG will have key responsibilities in the following areas:
 - (i) Strategic leadership - Contributing to the setting of a clear strategic approach for the Hackney Schools Group Board,
 - (ii) Overseeing System Performance and Development - Supporting and guiding the Board in the assessment of performance and attainment of the Hackney local schools' system, and
 - (iii) Advocating on Behalf of the Hackney Schools Group Board - Taking a lead role in championing excellence in the local school system, promoting improvement and high standards, and ensuring fair access for all young people.
- 2.2 Once appointed, the Chair will act in the best interests of the Hackney Schools Group Board as a whole. They will not represent any particular interest, nor will they align themselves with any constituency, voting group or other stakeholder. The Chair will be impartial in all matters.
- 2.3 The Chair of the HSG Board will dedicate approximately two working days per month to HSGB matters and also be prepared and able to commit additional time in exceptional circumstances.

3. Comments of the Group Director, Children, Adults & Community Health

- 3.1 The Chair of the Hackney Schools Group (HSG) Board will need to be committed to contributing their experience, energy, and knowledge to the leadership of an exceptional, ambitious local education system.
- 3.2 In their interviews, the applicants had to demonstrate their experience across a range of areas: proven strategic leadership; effective corporate governance; success in overseeing system performance and development; and advocating improvement and high standards.
- 3.3 The quality of all of the applicants was very high. Ultimately, however, the successful candidate was the outstanding one, demonstrating the necessary combination of experience and passion about raising achievement and ensuring every child makes the best possible start in life, regardless of their background, physical or material circumstances.

4. Comments Of the Group Director, Finance And Corporate Resources

- 4.1 This report recommends that Cabinet notes the recommendation from the nomination committee, and approves the appointment of the successful candidate as set out in the exempt appendix to serve as Chair of the Hackney Schools Group Board for a term of three- years commencing on 1 October 2019. This position is remunerated at £10,000 per annum which is to be met from existing HLT budgets.

5. Comments of the Director, Legal And Governance

- 5.1 There are no legal barriers to the appointment of the Chair of the Hackney Schools Group as this is an advisory board and will not exercise delegated authority. The appointment of the Chair is in line with the previous report to Cabinet dated 29 April 2019.
- 5.2 The LA has a statutory duty under section 13a of the education act 1996 to ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are (so far as they are capable of being so exercised) exercised by the authority with a view to—
 - (a) promoting high standards,
 - (b) ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training, and
 - (c) promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom this subsection applies.
 - (2) subsection (1) applies to the following—
 - (a) persons under the age of 20;
 - (b) persons aged 20 or over and for whom an EHC plan is maintained”
- 5.3 To support the Mayor’s priorities, Hackney Council will be discharging its function by setting up the Hackney Schools Group Board, which will be advisory in nature and will include the Director of Education sitting on the

board as an executive member who will be accountable to the Group Director for Children's, Adults and Community Health and the Lead Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care. The Director of Education has responsibility for this duty in accordance with CACH 114 of the Children, Adults and Community Health scheme of delegation.

6. Appendices

Exempt Appendix 1 – Hackney Schools Group Board - Chair Nomination

Report Author	Neil Weeks – Tel: 020 8820 7007 Policy & Governance officer, HLT Neil.weeks@learningtrust.co.uk
Comments for and on behalf the Group Director of Finance and Resources	Jackie Moylan on behalf of Ian Williams – Tel: 020 8356 3033 Group Director of Finance and Resources ian.williams@hackney.gov.uk
Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Legal and Governance	Breda Maynard on behalf of Dawn Carter-McDonald - Tel: 020 8356 4817 Head of Legal and Governance Deputy Monitoring Officer, Dawn.carter-mcdonald@hackney.gov.uk