



Minutes of a meeting of HASGA, Hackney School Governors' Association, held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 at Hackney Learning Trust offices. The meeting opened at 18:40

**Present:**

Joy Omojuwa (JO)	Benthal Primary School
Frances Peel-Yates (FPY)	Betty Layward
Kate Loewenthal (KL)	Federation of Lubavitch Schools
Fiona Baird (FB)	Haggerston
Jo Macleod (JM)	Lauriston
Jacy Templeton (JT)	Lauriston
Damian Holt (DH)	Millfields
Taiwo Temitope Aishat (TTA)	Morningside
Emily Jost (EJ)	Randal Cremer
Sarah Finch (SF)	Sir Thomas Abney
Mary Hiscock (MH)	St Dominics
Annie Wright (AW)	Thomas Fairchild
Olu Adesanu (OA)	Bridge Academy
Margaret Glover (MG)	St Mary's
Dr Sally Watson (SW)	Parkwood Primary School
Yusuf Erol (YE)	Burbage Primary School
Gillian Brady (GB)	Mandeville Primary School
Derek Powell (DP)	Cardinal Pole
Martin Buck (MB)	Skidders
William Sheasgreen (BS)	Stoke Newington School and Sixth Form
Jean Charles	De Beauvoir Primary School

**Clerk:** Yusuf Erol

**In Attendance:** NONE

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all delegates to the meeting. The Clerk gave delegates' apologies and introductions were made. Apologies were received from:

Moses Theo Bibelman (Yesodey), Catherine McGuinness (City Academy), Tricia Okoruwa (Petchey), Christopher Sills (Sir Thomas Abney), Pamela Sills (Holmleigh), Bernard Hawes (Stormont House), Lee Laudat-Scott (Baden Powell), Diane Bernhardt (Rushmore), Antonia Canning (William Patten), John Coombes (Queensbridge), Angela Adedeji (HLT)

It was

**RESOLVED** to consent to their absence

2. Speakers:

- 2.1 Tricia Okoruwa: How Governing Bodies Become Outstanding;  
The Working Party and The Journey. (All)

*There was a change for this agenda item as apologies were received from TO. DP covered this item under agenda item 4*

- 2.2 Martin Buck: Briefing on Spanish/MFL (KS2-4) and Computing

The main points of MB's presentation were:

Spanish

- A really good initiative has been rolled out across all schools in Hackney – all 54 primary schools have bought into the idea of a 'first language' approach, the language being Spanish
- Approximately 37 schools have been on a training programme recently;
- There was some hesitation from some schools, particularly those with close links to French
- This is the first time in Hackney that all schools have bought into a single language initiative
- Five schools have agreed to assist in training and helping with moderating
- HLT has agreed to train teaching assistants who are willing to learn Spanish
- Governors are advised to have a conversation with their school's management team to enquire what model the schools are working with in terms of delivery – as the advice is more than the traditional 30mins a week is needed
- Taught language provision should be at the beginning of the day.
- More depth in primary is needed - perhaps a lead teacher who is a specialist working across 2/3 schools
- Governors should ask their schools where they are with the programme
- All secondary schools have said in principle that they are willing to work on Spanish
- Spanish does not necessarily have to be the only language taught in schools, particularly in secondary schools where sometimes up to three languages are taught

Points to note from questions from HASGA members:

- Spanish was chosen because it is a world language which linguists say is slightly easier to teach. One secondary school has since formed a link with Peru (YE)

Computing:

- There are changes required in KS1 and KS2 - moving away from ICT and into computing (simple programmes). This is a big shift for primary schools
- At KS1, children are expected to predict behaviour of programmes and solve easy computing problems
- At KS2, children are expected to know how simple algorithms work
- On the whole primary schools have taken a mature response to the changes and are working with HLT to manage these changes
- Governors might want to ask their school how the school is launching the initiative
- There are also changes in Secondary schools and HLT have run a similar programme where eight schools have participated.
- HLT has been successful in obtaining some grant money to help assist with the necessary training
- HLT has been arranging network meetings. HLT has also arranged for consultants to go into schools and work with the ICT coordinators
- ICT coordinators have given very good feedback on the training and preparation

Points to note from questions from HASGA members:

- SIP visit three this term will look at modern foreign languages and ICT so schools will get info about where their school sits with these new initiatives (GB)
- Some schools have had trouble with the IT service provider RM – in the specific school example given HLT is aware that the school is coming out of contract and are looking at a new provider and that this is progressing well (BS)

### 2.3 Gillian Brady: Primary Briefing. (FS-KS2)

The main points from GB's presentation were:

- As previously mentioned to HASGA there needs to be new assessment systems in schools (APS will go)
- From September schools have local discretion to come up with their own system
- Primary heads asked HLT to come up with a model that Hackney could start using
- The market was scanned and there was nothing suitable which was available
- Five introduction/training sessions have been arranged for 15 Hackney leaders on the model developed
- The new September curriculum is focused on end of year expectations
- The pitch of learning is going to be much higher; 85% of pupils are expected to be at this new standard
- Particularly for maths, the curriculum is much harder

- 2016 is the key year where the new measures will be tested for the first time
- Governors will have to analyse lots of new complex data
- Historical data should come in to the new levels on the tracker
- Measurement should work towards age expected - 'secondary readiness'
- The system developed by HLT is similar to the EYFS model
- Schools will have to match current data to the new curriculum in September
- Schools do not have to use the system developed by HLT, but HLT has designed it and it is available to Hackney schools free of charge
- Schools have worked on this over two terms – teachers and leaders have worked together and it has been very productive
- HLT may later sell this model to non-Hackney schools so schools should keep in mind any commercial sensitivity issues when (if) discussing with colleagues from other authorities
- The system is also aligned with reception/EYF profiles so if schools use this system they will be able to track pupils' progress from reception onwards
- A lot of work has gone into mapping the old data sets with the new data framework
- Teachers will use information in the new grids and do a 'best fit' for their pupils
- Maths will be a bigger challenge than English in schools
- Governors may want to enquire about training teachers for maths as the expectation is that some Class Teachers will need further training to effectively teach at the new levels
- Raise online could help schools look to see where they are in terms of the new levels
- 15 schools (the ones in the working party) will start using this new assessment tool in September, after that these schools can roll it out to a further 15 schools
- By January 2015 all Hackney schools that want it will be able to start working with the new assessment tool
- HLT has presented this to a group of secondary schools so they know what's coming

Points to note from questions from HASGA members:

- The 6D maximum graded for Maths could be refined as the model is developed (MG)
- These are not just levels in another name, teachers have to be really skilled to take these children forward (MB, FB)
- In terms of an IT system the new system will be linked to SIMS (AW)
- Class teachers have to be honest and say whether or not they need additional subject knowledge training, particularly with Maths (MC)
- The current Year 4 will be the first to be tested on new system. At Mandeville, there is a frequent agenda item on how this cohort is doing (AW)
- Performance against national averages will still be available as there will still be end of year assessments which will benchmark schools against other

schools (AW)

- There will be a new test in 2015 on grammar, punctuation and spelling. Some schools will need to formally introduce this into the curriculum (LN)
- Schools have been making the best of the situation and have been working hard on managing all this change. Getting the pitch for English and maths right is a challenge (MC)
- No other authority is doing anything similar to Hackney (EJ)

*As Gillian Brady will retire at the end of term HASGA thanked her for all the work she has done for HASGA and all primary schools in Hackney*

3. Refreshments and Networking Break

4. Working Party Presents the Edited Journey Document Complete with Links to Resources and Exemplars. (All)

- About a year ago Tricia Okoruwa came to HASGA and presented on a McKinsey publication that looked at the school improvement journey. McKinsey categorised journeys of schools around the world
- There was then a discussion on what that would look like for governing bodies to be able to see where they are in their journey. A group of governors got together to look at the framework which was launched at the recent Governors conference
- This will be sent out with draft agendas in the autumn term for GB meetings to use for their self-review
- The group has been meeting regularly to try and pull together useful documentation (incl statutory documents) with a view to having it available all in one place (drop box)
- This will be emailed out to HASGA members and governors could then share further with their governing bodies
- Governors are asked for feedback once launched about how useful this tool is and if there is anything missing or if there are any suggested improvements
- More exemplars of good practice are welcome and can be added to (or amend existing) documents currently stored in drop box

5. The 2014/15 Hackney School Governors Conference: Theme/Workshops/Speakers (All)

HASGA members were asked to work in groups to put forward ideas for the next governor's conference. The following ideas were shared:

- Examples of what a 'journey to great' could look like for a GB
- A workshop or speaker on how to keep cultural education on-going in schools
- Information/workshops for new governors
- Perhaps the theme could be 'staying outstanding'

- Some feedback on Ofsted inspections that have happened within the new system
- How schools have been communicating the new curriculum to parents (plus strategy for communicating)
- Gareth Mills from the Curriculum Foundation to be a guest speaker
- Something around moderation in schools and how it's done

6. HASGA Business

6.1 Minutes

**AGREED** as an accurate record

6.2 Meetings Attended

**NONE**

6.3 AOB

LN highlighted the papers circulated with the agenda to help GB's reconstitute

DP suggested that GB's should get their annual business together and decide when they would get together to reconstitute. It was suggested that a designated date be put in the diary ASAP

6.4 Dates for next year's meetings (Note change to March meeting).

30 September 2014	8 December 2014
11 February 2015	24 March 2015
12 May 2015	8 July 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_