

November 2015

Message from the Chair

Firstly can I say that Millfields is somewhere I am proud to support. We aim high for our children and want them to gain the love of learning to follow them through life.

I recognise we are a community school and the diversity of people we engage with are vast. As chair I hope we engage with all our stakeholders effectively. We are a school who cares and we want all aspects of our community to engage with us so our children can be the very best they can be.

It is impressive to see the proactively of our governing body, their commitment to the school is unquestionably supportive yet challenging.

We have worked with parent-representatives, governors and staff to finalise a set of six strategic aims and which Jane and her senior team have incorporated in to the school plan to make sure that we deliver effective learning experiences (beyond lessons etc.) throughout the school life.

I act as escalation throughout the school, and am happy for you to contact me directly using the chairs emails.

I end by saying; I find this a great honour to serve you and your school. I can reassure you of the level of challenge we have reviewing the data from the school, and in discussing with Jane the leadership of the school. Jane leads an operationally strong school and I hope your children enjoy the experience that we have here.

Best Wishes

Damian Holt. Chair of Governors

Message from Chair of Resources Committee

The Resources Committee met on 14th October and covered a wide agenda from staffing, monitoring of the budget as well as premises issues whilst reviewing and adopting various policies.

To note is that the budget for this financial year is on track to recover the deficit from the previous year. Thanks to some belt-tightening and proper scrutiny of where money is being spent, the committee alongside Jane and Steffi have worked hard to ensure that we are as prudent as possible whilst ensuring that we are keeping on top of potential overspends.

In other areas – the H&S policy is due to be signed off in November. Sickness absence amongst staff has improved.

Sincerely

Hamza Yusuf. Chair of Finance, Resources and Premises Committee.

Message from Chair of Curriculum Committee

Teaching staff and leaders have had a challenging year. Government guidelines have been changed in terms of attainment levels and assessment, (*assessment without levels*). Essentially this has meant a new playing field in which all schools and education authorities are trying to negotiate. This challenge

has been taken on vigorously by the school and *Millfields* have been leading the way in helping HLT and other schools find and demonstrate ways in which to implement the new assessment levels into the classroom.

Alongside ensuring rigour in core subjects, the Committee tries to support and encourage the school to find creative and playful spaces in the school calendar. Democracy weeks, speaking and listening weeks, art weeks, poetry slams are all part of the creative and diverse learning environment that we hope the school continues to foster.

Kind Regards

Gordon Murray Chair of Curriculum, Pupil Development and Wellbeing Committee

Profile of new governor: Hamza Yusuf

What do you do in real life?

I am a qualified accountant and Head of Finance at LB Hackney

How and why did you become a governor?

I applied to become a governor via governor services at the Hackney Learning Trust with a special request to be placed at *Millfields* as I am a former pupil of the school!

What are your roles?

I am chair of the Finance, Resources and Premises Committee

What impression do you get of *Millfields* school?

A truly inclusive school with committed teaching staff that are keen to ensure each pupil achieves their true potential

Best and worst things about being a governor?

Best thing – feeling connected to the educational provision for children attending the same institution that I attended 20 years ago. Worst thing – not being able to do more due to work commitments!

Reconstitution of the governing body

*Last year, to comply with government obligations the *Millfields* governing board began the journey of reconstitution. Governing bodies were required to be formed around the skills needed by the school rather than one of community representation. There was also a strong steer to reduce the number of members that make up the governing body.*

*At *Millfields* we made a case that with such a vibrant and diverse school community and given that the governing body favour a 'hands on' relationship with the school, we will achieve the upper end of the guidelines and only reduce the membership slightly and by evolution. We keep auditing our skill base and when a governor's term expires, look to replacing them where possible with an individual who matched our requirements in terms of skills needed to effectively support and challenge the school.*

What this means for Parent Governors.

*This means that we will have **2 elected parent governors** on the governing body. These positions will come up when a serving board member finishes their term or decides to step down. Any parent can stand for these positions and ideally they should be able to demonstrate the skills or aptitude to ensure that the needs of the school are met.*

*However parents who are interested in serving on the governing body may still do so in a **co-opted** capacity, if a position becomes available and if their skills best match a current deficit in the governor body overall.*

Parents are invited to submit an application which articulates the particular skills they have and what they can bring to school. These applications will then be kept in a 'pool' to be considered when a position arises. We are fortunate to have two individuals already who have volunteered to join this pool.