

# University of Manchester School Governor Initiative

## Notes of Network Meeting on 5 March 2015, 12.30pm-2.00pm

**From:** Alison Gregory, Undergraduate Recruitment & Widening Participation Officer & Stephanie Lee, Head of Widening Participation & Outreach

**Attendees:** Alison Firth, Dorothy Clayton, Teresa Chilton, Colin Gorman, Joanne Hart, Linda Berry, Mike Gibbons, Pia Pollock, Siobhan Cartwright, Rosalyn Webster, Sian Nash, Sue Astley, Ian Madley, Miranda Hall, Dennis Cortez, Alistair Sutcliffe, Matthew Valentine, Nick Turnbull, Laurence Clarke, Peter Crowe.

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** The group introduced themselves and welcomed new members
2. **Minutes & Matters arising. Matters arising are covered in Governor Updates**
3. **U of M school governor updates (AG)**
  - 3.1 **Membership**
    - There are now 159 members of staff in the network, an increase of 7 since the November Network meeting. SGOSS have placed 60 members of the network
    - 94 Alumni are now placed by SGOSS as governors across England and over 300 are registered with SGOSS since our Alumni e-campaign in December 2013. The total Alumni network stands at 219, up from 157 at the November network meeting.
  - 3.2 **Times Higher Awards**
    - ☐ The University's School Governor Initiative won the Times Higher Award in the Outstanding Contribution to Local Community category. Thank you to everyone for making this possible.
  - 3.3 **Manchester Governors' Annual Conference. 7 February 2015**

**This conference was attended by several members of the network and the** Key note speakers were Emma Knights, Chief Executive of the National Governors Association and John Edwards, Director of Education & Skills at Manchester City Council. Presentation slides are available here: <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umsgi/events/slides/>
4. **Guest Speaker, Dr Kirstin Kerr, Institute of Equity in Education, SEED**

Dr Kerr gave an overview of research findings of the Pupils Premium. A pdf version of the slides are available on the UMSGI pages <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umsgi/events/slides/>
5. **UMSGI Conference 2015**
  - 5.1 AG reported on progress relating to the annual governors' conference on 30 April 2015 at Chancellors Conference Centre.
    - Invitations are also open to Alumni, Chairs & Vice-Chairs. Please forward the booking form to your Chair or Vice Chair if you wish to invite them.

The finalised programme is now available and was distributed at the meeting. You can book on here: <https://selectsurveys.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=760I4m3M>

    - Facilitators/scribes are required for a short afternoon slot so please contact me directly if you can support the conference in this way.
    - Online booking opens on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

- If anyone wants to promote school engagement activities, contact me by email and arrange to send leaflets/flyers for the packs or hand-outs

## 6. SGOSS Ambassadors

- 6.1 A survey went out in February to all governors placed by SGOSS. Thank you to those who took the time to complete it. We will be able to share the results with you in future correspondence.
- 6.2 As part of the SGOSS Ambassador Scheme, follow up support will be available to all governors placed in 2015. Staff who are placed by SGOSS in 2015 will receive follow up communications from staff at SGOSS to check how governors are doing in their role and see what additional support might be required. This is a new venture for SGOSS and is part of an ongoing service to organisations who place a high volume of staff into governor roles. The follow up support is not currently available to Alumni.
- 6.3 SGOSS have recruitment campaigns planned in Autumn amongst our local schools to encourage them to advertise their governor vacancies. Please can everyone in the network also encourage their schools to place any new vacancies with SGOSS as this will help more of our staff find governor positions.

## 7. Survey to governors

- 7.1 We are launching a survey to all members of UMSGI which will focus on skills and professional development, continuing the work we started at a recent network meeting. The survey will be launched towards the end of March and followed up at the annual conference with some short discussion questions. You will receive the survey via email and be asked to complete online.

## 8. AOB

- ▣ [The University's Furniture Store](#). There is a range of furniture available to schools free of charge. For further information please follow the link to the website and contact [simon.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:simon.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk) directly.
- ▣ [The NGA's Framework for Governance](#) This document is free to download and is a guide to strategic planning.
- ▣ There is currently a vacancy for someone with finance/accountancy skills at Kingsway Trust (primary). If you know of any colleagues who may wish to help out at this Trust please let them know and ask them to contact me directly [alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk). There is also the option to not become a full governor but to be a co-opted governor in an advisory capacity only. Please share with colleagues.
- ▣ Dr Ian Madley. Closure of School. Ian gave the group some key points and advice for any governors involved in the closure of a school. If this is something you would like to find out more about, Ian will be happy to speak to you directly.
- ▣ Alison Firth announced the University's Library School Image competition. You can download a booklet here for your school. Closing date is Friday 5 June.

## 9. Next Meeting

Thursday 2 July 2015

Suggestions for themes, format, speakers are very welcome for our final meeting of the academic year.

You may also put yourself forward if you wish to talk for 5 minutes about any school issues you have experienced and would like to share with colleagues.