

# University of Manchester School Governor Initiative

**Notes of Network Meeting on 21 October 2015, 12.00pm-2.00pm**

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

**Attendees:** Alison Firth, Dorothy Clayton, Joanne Hart, Pia Pollock, Sian Nash, Miranda Hall, Alistair Sutcliffe, Peter Crowe, Fiona Lynch, Sali Midjek-Conway, Christine McLean, Siobhan Cartwright, Katy Young, Anne-Marie Nugnes, Kieron Flanagan, Brendon Jones, Laurin Lemieux and Lesley Dowdall (guest speaker)

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** The group introduced themselves and welcomed new members
2. **Minutes & Matters arising. There were no minutes of the previous meeting as the July network meeting did not take place. Any matters arising from the March meeting are in the notes.**
  - 2.1 **U of M school governor membership figures update (AG)**
    - There are now **166** members of staff in the network, an increase of 14 since the March Network meeting and an increase of 7 since July.
    - 147 Alumni have now been placed by SGOSS as governors across England. This added to the Alumni baseline of 125 gives total Alumni network of **272** and a total network figure of **438** (staff and Alumni). The faculty breakdown (staff only) is below. These are taken from the APR submission to the planning office in July 2015. Figures are based on 161 staff governors. The total number of governors in the university equates to 1.3% of the total staff population.
    - **EPS – 24**
    - **Hum – 40**
    - **FLS – 10**
    - **MHS – 27**
    - **Central PSS including Cultural Resources – 60**
- 3 **Guest Speaker, Lesley Dowdall, Deputy Director (Development) Division of Development and Alumni Relations**

Many thanks go to Lesley for her contribution to the network meeting. Lesley gave us a very helpful and informative presentation on fundraising and strategies that can be implemented by schools. Lesley's slides are attached and can also be viewed on [the UMSGI staff pages](#).
4. **Feedback on Skills Survey and further impact reporting**

Stephanie Lee gave an overview of the findings of the March skills survey. Thanks to all governors who completed the survey. More details can be found in the PDF slides from the meeting (attached) and will be in the UMSGI staff pages (link). Stephanie will follow up with a written report when all research is complete. The findings demonstrate the wide range of skills our staff governors are using and acquiring and the positive impact this is having on schools and on the university.
5. **Coffee Mornings Programme**
  - 5.1 Alison gave an overview of the UMSGI events for the forthcoming academic year. The next event is a coffee morning in Christies Bistro on 26 November at 11am. Details of the theme for discussion will be sent out shortly.

During the meeting members were asked to discuss for 5 minutes what themes they would like to share and discuss at the coffee mornings and/or network meetings. Suggestions included:

- i. Prevent Strategy and Child Protection
- ii. Ofsted Inspection
- iii. SEND
- iv. Making an impact as a Link Governor
- v. Academy conversion
- vi. Exclusions
- vii. Challenging the head-teacher, how to improve transparency between the Head and governors
- viii. Breaking down latest buzz words/new initiatives occurring in schools
- ix. Norms around governance

Please feel free to comment or add more themes for discussion.

The dates for future UMSGI events are as follows; please put them in your diary.

- ▣ 26 November 2015 (coffee morning)
- ▣ 12 February 2016 (Network meeting)
- ▣ March 2016 – coffee morning (date and theme TBC)
- ▣ 28 April 2016 (UMSGI Conference)
- ▣ May 2016 – coffee morning (date and theme TBC)
- ▣ June 2016 (Network Meeting)

## 6. **Annual Conference 2016**

This year's UMSGI conference will take place at Chancellors Conference Centre on **Thursday 28 April 2016**. The invitation will again be extended to Chairs/Vice-chairs so you may pass on the date. The online booking system will be available in the new year.

Confirmed speakers are:

**Prof James Thompson** - Associate Vice-President for Social Responsibility

**Emma Knights** – Chief Executive, NGA

**Eileen Mulgrew**, HMI, OFSTED

If members would like to suggest workshops and if possible, potential speakers for workshops, please forward them to me so I can make the necessary contact. Some of the workshop ideas already suggested are:

- ▣ Safeguarding and Child Protection
- ▣ Performance Management of the Head-teacher/Challenging the Head Teacher
- ▣ A piece of current research from Manchester Institute of Education
- ▣ Early Years Foundation Stage
- ▣ Finance

## ▣ Interpreting school data

Please note that in order to make the conference as successful as in previous years, a small planning group needs to be convened to help with ideas, contacts, arrangements and facilitation on the day. If you are able to be part of the team, which will meet 3 times between now and April, please let me know, [alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk). Be assured you will not be over burdened with extra work, it is more to plan and generate ideas. Thank you.

## 7. Open Forum

At this network meeting we had 3 governors contribute in the open forum.

1. Brendon Jones talked about his new role on the Manchester Schools Forum and thanked colleagues who voted for him in the elections. This is predominantly a finance related role and Brendon will send updates where necessary.
2. Fiona Lynch gave a brief overview of the Manchester Access Programme and asked governors to remind sixth forms and colleges that applications are now open for Year 12 pupils and to remind secondary schools that Greater Manchester pupils currently in Year 11 should be aware of MAP so that they can take the opportunity to apply as soon as they reach Year 12.
3. Christine McLean and her research student Evelyn (Evie) Gregory introduced a very important piece of research that Evie is carrying out. The research seeks to explore different issues surrounding governance, accountability and the management of performance within primary and secondary schools. This work will continue some of the research started with the Skills Survey and governors are asked to contact Evie if they would be prepared to spend 30 minutes answering some face to face questions for her research project. We really hope that governors can speak to Evie in the next few weeks, her email is [evelyn.gregory@student.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:evelyn.gregory@student.manchester.ac.uk) Thanks for this in advance.

## 8. AOB

- We were recently re-accredited by the **BITC** for our Responsible Business Award 2015 and received a School Recruitment Award from the Education Business Award – Commended, to recognise successful investment in education.
- There is a vacancy on the governing body at **Gorsey Bank Primary in Wilmslow**. Please let colleagues know and ask them to contact me if they are interested.
- There are also governor vacancies with **The Manchester Federation of EBSD Schools** which consists of two Key Stage 2/3 centres (9-14); Southern Cross and Meade Hill and two Key Stage 4 centres (14-16); Castlefield Campus and Wythenshawe Campus, and a residential special school for pupils from 7 to 16; Buglawton Hall School. All the pupils have to have a statement or Education Health and Care Plan which is reviewed annually. The statement or plan will name social, emotional and mental health difficulties as their primary need. Most of the pupils have a diagnosis of ADHD.

They are not looking for any particular skills other than an understanding of the issues that these young people and their families may be experiencing. If you are interested please contact Alan Braven, [alan.braven@castlefieldcampus.com](mailto:alan.braven@castlefieldcampus.com)

- There will be an event for **student governors** in post 16 institutions in Greater Manchester on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Students Union. This will be a training day looking at campaigning and meeting skills. A number of our colleges are taking part. Contact Trish McGrath in the SU for more information. [Trish.mcgrath@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Trish.mcgrath@manchester.ac.uk)
- The [post 16 area review](#) is underway in Greater Manchester. This is a substantial restructure for the sector and a number of our sixth form and college governors are working together in preparation for this. You can find out more about it in the link.
- **ECOS (European City of Science) In July 2016.**

Manchester has been designated the European City Of Science 2015/16. There will be a Schools event – **Manchester's Big School Science Share** on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, open to all ages. **A day where young people share the science that they enjoy with new audiences.** The new audiences could be other young learners, other schools, their families, or the wider community. Please visit <http://www.manchestersciencecity.com> for more details.

Manchester is also hosting the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF).

- The National Governors Association annual conference is taking place in London on Saturday 14 November.

**9. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be on Friday 12th February 2016. An agenda will be sent around in January.

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