Goldington Academy Trust

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for Goldington Academy Trust held on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 6:00pm

Member attendance

	Attendance
Mr Doug Alcock	Y
Mrs Azma Ahmad-Price (Chair of Governing Body)	Y
Mr Robin Francis (Vice Chair of Governing Body)	Y
Mrs Jo Hawkins	Y
Mr Matt Price	Y
Mrs Kate Reynier	Y

Trustee (Governor) attendance

		Attendance
Mr Francis Galbraith	Principal	Y
Mr Dharminder Mehmi	LA Governor	Y
Mrs Nina Sharp	Appointed Governor	Y
Dr Jo Jarvis	Appointed Governor	Y
Mrs A De Sylva	Appointed Governor	Y
Mr Neil Davies	Appointed Governor	Y
Mrs Sara Redmond	Appointed Governor	Y
Mrs Victoria Stoeter	Parent Governor	Y
Mrs Felicia D'Amelio	Staff Governor	Y
Dr James Mackley	Co-opted Governor	Y

Special Advisors to Governors

		Attendance
Mr Xue Feng Zhang	Special Advisor to Governors	**Y**
Ms Kim Clarke	Special Advisor to Governors	**Y**

Apologies

		Attendance
Mr Liam Hall	Staff Governor	N
Mrs Hema Hurn	Co-opted Governor	N
Mr Jaimie Stewart	Appointed Governor	N
Mrs Nicola Mills	Parent Governor	N

Minutes: Robeka Hussey

Attendees: Mr Dean Challenger (parent governor)

0.0	**Notice of AGM** 0.1 The notice of the AGM was circulated on 12th January 2026 to Members and Trustees (Governors). The notice detailed an agenda for the AGM as follows: 1. Declarations of Interest 2. Apologies 3. Review of Minutes of last meeting on Thursday 13th February 2025 4. Review of Accounts and Annual Report for the period to 31st August 2025 (*available in the Academy Trust and Governance section of the Academy website)* 5. Appointment and Retirement of Directors 6. Appointment of Auditors for 2025/26

	7. Any motions which the Members wish to debate 8. Any business which governors (Trustees) have asked the Members to consider 0.2 No motions were received in writing in advance of the meeting. No business was put forward by Trustees (Governors) to the Members in advance of the meeting.
1.0	**Declarations of Interest** 1.1 None advised.
2.0	**Apologies** 2.1 All Members were noted to be in attendance. Mr Robin Francis was delayed and attended during agenda item 4. 2.2 Trustees (Governors) – Mrs Nicola Mills, Mr Liam Hall and Mrs Hema Hurn offered their apologies. Post meeting, Mr Stewart sent his apologies, as he was not available due to unforeseen circumstances.
3.0	**Minutes of the last AGM** 3.1 Members reviewed the minutes of the AGM held on 13th February 2025, and these were noted as approved. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4.0	**Review of Accounts and Annual Report for the period to 31st August 2025** (*available in the Academy Trust and Governance section of the Academy website*) 4.1 The Accounts and Annual Report were considered. All Members were satisfied with the information provided and approved the accounts. Mr Dharminder Mehmi explained that the school was in a good financial position and thanked Mr Birchall for his continued efforts in cost control and cost management. It was noted that at the end of August, the surplus was just over £1.08m. Total Income for the academic year was £7.212m, and Total Expenditure for the academic year was just under £7.5m. Net Movement in funds before other recognised gains and losses £258k, which was carried into the previous year's surplus. It should be noted that the catering facility was taken over by the school quickly and well-organised. Staff were retained from external caterers, and a Catering Manager was recruited. There has been an increase in pupil engagement in purchasing from the new Eatery. Mr Mehmi brought to the attention of the attendees that the finances were in surplus, and in accordance with the guidelines from DfE, the reserves need to be observed closely to ensure that they are not above 20% of total income. Mr Mehmi confirmed that there have already been discussions within the Committee regarding the proposed expansion of the school site. Mr Galbraith stated that there is the potential to have three additional classrooms. At the Strategy Day in June, Governors prioritised addressing the lack of space. Reserves need to be spent, and this opportunity to expand is ideal and a good investment. Once the surplus was confirmed, Mr Birchall, Mr Galbraith and Mr Kipp conducted a school site review and identified where the extra classrooms could be built. The external Financial Audit took place in November with Streets. It was another clean audit with no qualifications or material issues arising. Thanks, should be given to Mr Galbraith, Mr Birchall and the support staff. Mr Galbraith highlighted that the Financial Report includes a statement from Mrs Ahmad-Pearce and Mr Galbraith. The academic performance was again exceptionally good. 4.2 The Accounts and Annual Report were approved by the Members.
5.0	**Appointment and Retirement of Directors** 5.1 Members noted the retirement of the following Directors since the last AGM: • Mrs Kate Reynier (Appointed Governor) • Mrs Claire Rulton (Appointed Governor)

	• Mr Stuart Bolton (Parent Governor) • Mrs Natalie Hopkins (Parent Governor) 5.2 Members noted the appointment of the following Directors since the last AGM: • Ashani DeSylva (Appointed Governor previously Co-opted) • Nina Sharp (Appointed Governor previously Co-opted) • Dr James Mackley (Co-opted Governor) • Jaimie Stewart (Co-opted Governor) • Nicola Mills (Parent Governor previously a special advisor) • Dean Challenger (Parent Governor) 5.3 Members had conducted a meeting on 8th January to move Mrs De Sylva and Mrs Sharp from the Co-opted Governor role to Appointed Governors. Therefore, Dr Mackley and Mr Stewart would then be able to adopt the roles of Co-opted Governors. This was ratified and approved during this meeting. Members were also advised that Ms Kim Clarke, Mr Zhang and Mrs Mills were special advisors to the Governors, with voting rights only at the committee level and no voting rights at Full Governing Body meetings. 5.4 Since this meeting has taken place, Mrs Mills has successfully secured the parent governor role. Mr Challenger has also taken on the role of Parent Governor.
6.0	**Appointment of Auditors** 6.1 Members agreed to the retention of Streets as auditors for the forthcoming year. 6.2 Mr Mehmi brought to the attention of Members that there will be a tenure of auditors, as per the recommendation from the Financial Handbook. This will be reviewed by Mr Birchall and Mr Mehmi.
7.0	**Any other motions** 7.1 None
8.0	**Business for consideration** 8.1 The expansion of the school site was brought to the Members' attention. 8.2 Members asked whether the extra classroom would be assigned to specific subjects, such as Science and DT. Mr Galbraith explained that planning permission in the science block has been requested. At present, the classrooms will be for general usage. It is anticipated that STEM-related subjects will be taught in the classrooms due to its location. A third computer room and meeting rooms are still required. 8.3 Members asked whether there was any plan to increase PAN (Published Admission Numbers). Mr Galbraith confirmed that there were no plans to increase PAN. At present, the timetable, at certain parts of the day, can have no classrooms available, and this could provide an issue, if there was a problem within the classroom, such as a leak. Maths and English in Years 7 & 8 have 7 classes, but 8 would be ideal. DfE recommends using the Reserves for investment. The extra classrooms are a very good investment and address the ongoing space issue. 8.4 Members wanted to know how many science classrooms there were and whether the extra classrooms would be used for this type of facility. Mr Galbraith explained that there are 5 Science labs and rooms 10 and 17 are allocated to teaching Science. There is the potential to re-timetable rooms 10 and 17. However, plans have not been confirmed. 8.5 Members asked what the plans for the temporary buildings were. Mr Galbraith confirmed that the lease agreement expires within a year. It is anticipated that they will be purchased or continue to be leased. There is no point in building extra classrooms and then losing 2 classrooms. It does not make sense. They are in good condition, and the classrooms are used every day.

	8.6 Members enquired when the construction work would begin on the new classrooms. Mr Galbraith said that any construction that could impact the ability to run the school would take place during the summer holidays. It is hoped that work will begin in March/April, but it is dependent upon when planning permission is granted. Mr Kipp advised that as the extra classrooms are within the school site and do not look out on the main road, there should be no issues with planning. They will be ready for September, so that they can be included in the timetable for the next academic year. 8.7 Members requested further information regarding the space that would be required to accommodate the extra classrooms. Mr Galbraith explained that the allotment area would be impacted and the courtyard. The allotment will be allocated to another area. There will be a review of the area once the classroom expansion is complete. Mrs Stoeter had invested time in Sails being used in this area, and this will be revisited in due course. 8.8 Members asked for confirmation that the extra classrooms would be built directly onto the existing building and, therefore, it would reduce building costs. Mr Galbraith confirmed that the classrooms would be attached to the already built area and extended out. The cost for 3 classrooms are £600k and 2 classrooms is £480k. Therefore, a third classroom would make the best financial sense. The Chair confirmed that she had approved the planning permission request to be submitted, but subsequent considerations need to be discussed at relevant committee meetings, or ad hoc if required. Three tenders will need to be procured. 8.9 Members queried whether this was part of the 5/10-year school plan and what building plan and projections the school want to achieve. Mr Galbraith explained that there is a building plan, but IT, rather than building, is the focus. The main consideration for space was discussed during the recent strategy day in June. 8.10 Members wanted to know whether the school had considered adding a sixth form college. Mr Galbraith responded that this had not been a consideration. However, as time progresses Governors may decide to explore and develop in that direction. It is not in the school's immediate plans. 8.11 Special advisor discussed the potential of using the classrooms for specialist students, as there is a marked increase in the expectations from Year 11 to Year 12. This facility could be used to prepare the students for this change. SEND, LAC, and More Able students could be targeted to increase their potential. Mr Galbraith commented that Mr Marston oversees More Able students and ensures that they meet and exceed their potential progress. 22 students in physics achieved grades 8 & 9. There was also significant progress with PP students. Mr Francis also commented that with the increase in classrooms, there could be the potential to have smaller classes. 8.12 Members commented that it had been noted that ex-students have been returning as part of the teaching and support staff. It is a good testimonial to the school that students are eager to return. Mr Galbraith responded that LSAs, volunteers and work experience students have been past students and are part of the Goldington family. 8.13 The Chair of Governors closed the meeting and thanked Members for attending.