

Minutes of the Governing Board meeting of Islip Manor High School
held on Wednesday 18 March 2026

Present:	Mike Hulme Marion Budd Nicolas Grenie Philip Lillico Miraj Mehta Carole Millard Ragulan Sivam	Chair, local authority governor Headteacher Co-opted governor Co-opted governor Staff governor (items 1-7) Partnership governor Co-opted governor
Apologies:	Nicola Flash-Summers Ali Haider Jay Patel	Partnership governor Parent governor Co-opted governor
Others in attendance:	Matt Haresnape Grant Benjamin Maria Morris Kate Atkins	Senior Deputy Headteacher (items 1-7) Deputy Headteacher (items 1-7) School Business Manager Consultant Governance Manager
Apologies:	Lee Mathews	Deputy Headteacher
Quorum:	6 members	Quorum met: Yes

Item	
1	Welcome and procedural items
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the last governors' meeting to be held in the old school building before the school moved into the new building over the Easter holidays.
1.2	No business or pecuniary interests related to matters being considered at the meeting were declared.
2	Minutes and actions
2.1	The minutes of the Governing Board meeting held on 10 December 2025 were approved .
2.2	Governors noted the actions from the previous meeting, which had all been completed except for one relating to the setting of strategic objectives (see minute 3.1).
3	Governance matters
3.1	<i>Governor appointments</i> The Chair noted that governors had approved by email the appointment of Ragulan Sivam as a Co-opted Governor. He welcomed Ragulan to the board. Governors approved the reappointment of Nicolas Grenie as a Co-opted Governor. The Chair thanked Nicolas for his contribution to the board, particularly as Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. <i>Governing Board's strategic goals</i> The Chair noted that work was ongoing on the setting of the Governing Board's strategic goals and that a paper would come to the next board meeting in July. Action: Headteacher/Philip Lillico <i>Governor visits and training</i> The following governor visits and training were noted: • Carole, Nicola and Nicolas had attended "learning walks" at the school • Carole had visited the school as Lead Governor for safeguarding • Philip had attended an online training course on school partnerships The Chair encouraged all governors to arrange relevant visits to the school/attend appropriate training and to record the details under their personal profile on GovernorHub. Action: all governors

	The Headteacher said the school would be organising tours of the new school building and said she would send the schedule to governors so they could book onto a tour of their choosing. Action: Headteacher
4	Draft budget
4.1	Maria Morris, the school's Business Manager Consultant, updated governors on the setting of the school's new budget, following previous discussion by the Finance and Resources Committee. She said that, despite an increase in funding per student, the school would face a significant funding gap due to a continuing fall in student numbers. Maria reported that, since the beginning of the new school building project, staffing and marketing costs directly related to the project had been financed through the school's normal revenue budget. Since summer 2023, these staffing costs had been significant, and she proposed these be recharged to the building project budget. She noted that the project would end in April 2026 and that charges beyond the summer term would not apply. Governors noted that their key responsibilities included defining the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school – focussing on delivering the best educational and pastoral experience for students – and the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources. They agreed that the annual grant funding must only be used for the day-to-day operation of the school, in particular students' education, and that it would be inappropriate for it to be spent on matters related to the new building. Governors approved the proposal that staffing costs and marketing costs related to the new building for 2024-25 and 2025-26 should be recharged to the new school building project. Action: Maria Morris Maria noted that the school had received a one-off contribution from Ealing Council towards the costs associated with the new Specialist Resourced Provision. She suggested that the school could hold discussions with the council concerning any potential flexibilities around the use of these funds, with a view to including the funds in the reported balance. The intention would be for the school to draw on these funds for wider purposes while the impact of the new building on student numbers and on opportunities for additional revenue was assessed. This balance would be monitored separately to understand the extent to which the school was drawing on those funds. Governors agreed the school should open discussions with Ealing Council about the use of these funds. Action: Headteacher/Maria Morris

4.2	Governors reviewed the draft new budget, as it currently stood, and agreed with the direction of travel. They agreed that, unless there were any substantial structural changes to the budget, to delegate authority to the Finance and Resources Committee to approve the final three-year budget at its meeting on 13 May. Maria noted that the school was required to submit a three-year budget to Ealing Council by 15 May. Action: Maria Morris
5	Headteacher's report
5.1	<i>Attendance update</i> The Headteacher provided an update on student attendance, reminding governors that last year's attendance was 85.2%, well below the national average. The school's Attendance Baseline Improvement Target (ABIE) was 85.8% which represented the minimum percentage improvement the Department for Education expected the school to achieve this academic year. The Headteacher said, as of 10 March 2026, the school's year-to-date attendance figure was 88.5%. If the school sustained this level of increase and aimed to match this next academic year, its projected attendance by the end of 2026-27 would be 91.8%, much closer to the current national average of 93%. She reported that the school continued to volunteer to take part in the RISE Attendance and Behaviour Hub programme and had recently attended a training session. Governors welcomed the increase in student attendance and the school's ongoing work to improve it further.
5.2	<i>Marketing update</i> The Headteacher said one key strand of marketing work this term was on launching and recruiting to the school's sixth form offer for 2026-27. The other key strand was planning the promotion of the new school building before and after the move. This would include a programme of open events and tours of the new school site (see minute 3.1). The Headteacher updated the governors on offers for Year 7 places in September.
5.3	<i>New school building update</i> The Headteacher said extensive work was underway ahead of the school's move into the new building over Easter. This included packing furniture and teaching materials and training staff on how to operate the new building. The governors noted this was a hugely significant moment for the school which could be transformational for current and future students.

5.4	<i>Ofsted</i> The Headteacher briefed governors on initial preparations for the school's next Ofsted inspection, expected to be in 2028-29 or 2029-30. She said she would be arranging training for governors on the new Ofsted framework.
5.5	<i>Safeguarding</i> The Headteacher circulated the school's latest safeguarding reports which concluded that safeguarding arrangements were robust. They noted that staff understood their responsibilities, concerns were logged promptly, and leaders used data effectively to inform safeguarding practice and support vulnerable students.
6	Schools financial value statement
6.1	Maria Morris presented an updated version of the schools financial value standard (SFVS). This document helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management. The Finance and Resources Committee had reviewed the SFVS and were recommending it for approval. The governors approved the SFVS, subject to the inclusion of estimated timelines for some of the actions. Governors noted that the SFVS would be signed by the Chair on behalf of the board and submitted to Ealing Council by the end of March. Action: Chair, Maria Morris
7	Draft committee minutes
7.1	Governors noted the draft minutes of the last meetings of the Finance and Resources Committee and Curriculum and Standards Committee.
8	Confidential Part II meeting
8.1	This part of the meeting is covered in a confidential addendum.
	<i>Next meeting: Wednesday 8 July at 6.00pm</i>