

Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting
held on Wednesday 13 May 2026

Present:	Nicolas Grenie Marion Budd Ali Haider Mike Hulme Jay Patel	Chair – Co-opted governor Headteacher Parent governor Local authority governor Co-opted governor
Apologies:	Ragulan Sivam	Co-opted Governor
Others in attendance:	Matt Haresnape Maria Morris Kate Atkins	Senior Deputy Headteacher School Business Manager Consultant Governance Manager
Quorum:	3 members (Headteacher plus 2 non-staff governors)	Quorum met: Yes

Item	
1	Welcome and procedural items
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the committee to be held in the new school building. 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 meeting held on 11 February 2026 were approved .
2.2	The committee noted the actions arising. The report on the cost of meeting pay progression was deferred until the next meeting. The Headteacher and School Business Manager Consultant said all other actions had been completed or were in progress. Action: Headteacher The Chair of the Governors signed the School Financial Value Statement for submission to Ealing Council. The statement was approved at the last Governing Board meeting.
3	Budget report
3.1	<i>Budget return 2025-26</i> Maria Morris, the School Business Manager Consultant, said that, following approval at the last Governing Board meeting, the school's budget return for 2025-26 had been submitted to Ealing Council.
3.2	<i>Draft budget</i> Maria said that, following discussion at the last meetings of the committee and the Governing Board, further updates had been made to the draft budget for 2026-27, including provision for the recharges agreed around staffing and marketing costs. Budgeted income had increased following notification of confirmed Sixth Form funding and additional funding from Ealing Council in connection with the new Specialist Resource Provision, which had assisted in reducing the budgeted year-end deficit. Maria said the draft budget reflected the staffing consultation process currently in progress and noted that staff salaries had been budgeted based on a national pay increase of 2% for both teaching and support staff for 2026-27, and a similar 2% increase in 2027-28. Non-staffing expenditure had been estimated based on the transition to the new building, which had been designed to reduce expenditure in areas such as energy. Maria reminded governors of the sharp drop in funding due to falling student numbers, an issue facing many schools in London and beyond. At present, the budgeted income for 2027-28 and 2028-29 was based on the assumption of an increase in student numbers following the relaunch of the school and the move into the new building. If

	increased student numbers were sustained year-on-year, funding in subsequent years would be significantly higher. Governors approved the three-year budget and its submission to Ealing Council by 15 May 2026. They noted that the council was aware of the school's financial position and that it would need to consider a range of strategies to address the budget deficit.
3.3	<i>Income generation planning</i> Governors discussed with the school leaders strategies for addressing the funding challenges faced by the school. These included the possibility of engaging with the Department for Education (DfE) and Ealing Council concerning the use of funds held for the purposes of adding value to the new school building project (e.g. ensuring use of the new building was maximised) and delivering community facilities, as well as increasing student numbers. They agreed the school would need to bring in external specialist support to achieve some of these aims. The Headteacher said the DfE had recently produced new School Estate Management Standards which encouraged schools to view their buildings as strategic assets that could support both educational and financial sustainability through wider community and commercial use. She would circulated these to governors. Governors agreed they should discuss strategies for increasing funding for the school, alongside the DfE's new estate management guidelines, at their next meeting. Action: Headteacher/Kate Atkins
3.4	<i>Capital funds</i> Maria updated governors on the school's capital (new build) funds which continued to be held separately and accounted for through the separate savings accounts.
4	New school building update
4.1	The Headteacher briefed governors on the school's move into its new building which had taken place over the Easter holidays and had now been completed. She highlighted the outstanding work of the school's Facilities team and Network Manager in helping to deliver the move. The governors commended the school on its successful move into the new building and welcomed the transformative effect of the building on students, staff and the community. The Chair of the Governors said he would write to the Facilities team and Network Manager to thank them for their work. Action: Chair of Governors The Headteacher said, despite the disposal of many resources in advance of the move, it had been necessary to extend the removals company's contract to dispose of unwanted furniture and other resources so the school was able to leave the old building clear and ready for demolition. The school was able to support two local

	schools with donations of furniture which were not needed in the new building, and other resources were donated to local charities. The Headteacher said she had delayed students' return to school – and move into the new building – after the Easter holidays until Monday 20 April for health and safety reasons. There had been some issues relating to the safety and security of the site during the period when the school was closed to students, and these had now been resolved.
4.2	The Headteacher said that, in general, the new building had been very well received by staff and students. However, there was a major issue concerning some external and internal doors which were much heavier than those in the last building. Although the doors were in accordance with the Department for Education specification for new school buildings, they were proving unsuitable for some people with mobility issues who, because of the weight of the doors, had been unable to access and make their way around the building unaided. The school was working hard with relevant parties to resolve the issue as soon as possible. The Headteacher said the school was also very busy dealing with site functionality and addressing any defects and snags found in the building. It was vital that the school captured every issue as the contractors would only meet the costs of repairs for one year. Training was underway for school staff in the operation and management of the new building.
4.3	The Headteacher said progress meetings for Phase 2 of the project had now begun and it was hoped that demolition of the old school building would start in July or August and that all landscaping work, apart from grass seeding, would be completed by December. The Headteacher said the school was developing a lettings strategy to maximise the commercial opportunities to generate income with the site. (See also minute 3.3).
5	Confidential Part II meeting
5.1	This part of the meeting is covered in a confidential addendum.
	<i>Next meeting: Wednesday 24 June at 6pm</i>