

The Mount School - Clerk of committee's report 2021

Good morning Friends. Last year I brought you this report on the work of the school's governing body via Zoom but I am delighted to be here with some of you today in person.

Quakers in Yorkshire appoints the members of both School Committees, and there have been some changes since last year. Those of you who are regular attenders at QiY may have heard these reported during 2020-21; just to re-cap: Shoana Mackay, Joan Concannon and I were appointed for a second term starting in January 2021; Era Gjurgjeala, an Old Scholar nominee, stepped down in July for personal reasons; and Greg Willmott has been co-opted onto the committee as my deputy.

Later today you will be receiving the nominations for appointment for a second term of Old Scholar Nicola Spence and Julian Pattison of York AM.

Many of you will know that serving on any committee brings all sorts of things – hard work, the joy of fellowship, and the challenge of the unexpected. The pandemic has certainly brought us all of that, and I want to pay tribute to everyone – governors, teaching and support staff alike for their enduring and extraordinary commitment over the last year, under the exceptional leadership of our principal Adrienne Richmond. She will have more to say about the school year in a moment.

It would be an understatement to say this has been a challenging year. I would just like to acknowledge that navigating a path through the labyrinth of government rules and changes of policy has created an extremely demanding environment, and I know all pupils and parents are most grateful for the way in which it has been handled.

I'm not going to go into the subject of finances today. The school's accounts are publicly available and are shared with Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees as a matter of routine

The School Committee has continued to meet monthly online throughout the year, and we have been glad to embrace the advances that technology has brought. I said that committee work brings the unexpected – well, in March the unexpected came to us. Adrienne announced her intention to retire from teaching at the end of 2021, after 6 years at the Mount. Adrienne announced her intention to retire from teaching at the end of 2021, after 6 years at the

Mount. She has achieved a great deal in her time with us and we wish her well in the future. The Mount will most surely miss her.

The committee immediately embarked on the search for her successor, keenly aware that doing this well is the most crucial task for any governing body. To our delight and satisfaction this search was completed in July.

Some of you know already that we have appointed David Griffiths, formerly headmaster of Wycombe Abbey School [Changzhou] China, to the post. We look forward to welcoming him in due course.

This is my fifth report to you as clerk of the MSY cttee, and one of my responsibilities as chair of a board of charity trustees (because that is what we are) is to be aware of the committee's needs. Do we have the right balance of expertise and experience to run the organisation well? Is there someone ready to take over as clerk when the time comes? I am now in my second term on the committee so that time certainly is coming!

The School's Nominations sub-committee, old scholars, the parents association and the nominations committee of Quakers in Yorkshire all have a role to play in finding the right people to join the committee. We are always actively looking for new members. If any of you think you might have something to offer The Mount at this time of change, I would be very glad to hear from you.

I'll hand over to Adrienne now to tell you more about what has been going on at school since we last reported to you.