

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD ON 17 MARCH 2014

Present Governors:

Joanna Bailey (Principal), John Carson, Margaret Hirst (Chair), Alan Holborn, Catherine Marshall (Vice Chair), Jonathan Mankin, John Monkhouse, Dave Paxton, Sue Reay, Elizabeth Pearson, Steve Dauncey and Toks Sangowawa

Number of members present 12 – the meeting was quorate throughout.

Also Present:

Les Walton (Chair of Northern Education), Roger Alston (CEO Northern Education), Rachel Angus (Vice Principal), Bev Shepherd (Finance Manager), Diane Griffiths (Non-member) and Vicki Barber (Clerk)

The meeting was held at Stockton Sixth Form College in the LRC and started at 17:30

128.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sue Symington.

128.2 PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN EDUCATION

Following the Strategic Planning Event on Saturday, 15 February 2014, Northern Education had been invited to present their company profile to the Corporation.

Les Walton and Roger Alston from Northern Education left the meeting at 18:10 and a long discussion ensued.

RESOLVED to approve the process of Due Diligence.

128.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that they should declare any interests relevant to the business on the agenda as and when necessary.

No declarations of interest were made.

128.4 MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2014 AND ANY MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising:

[127.3] Safeguard Training – two members to complete the training, both members confirmed they would complete the training and forward their certificate to the Clerk.

[127.3] Enrichment Programme – the Principal confirmed the enrichment offer would be brought to the next meeting of the Corporation (28 April 2014).

[127.8] Six Dimensions Data – it was confirmed that the Vice Principal would provide some training for Governors at the next Corporation meeting (28 April 2014).

A question was raised regarding free transport and the Principal advised a full review of transport costs would be considered at the next Corporation meeting on 28 April 2014.

RESOLVED to note the report

EFFECTIVENESS/RESPONSIVENESS

128.5 CORPORATE REPORT

The Corporate report had been distributed to governors, updating the Corporation of progress made against the College's Strategic Objectives.

RESOLVED to note the report

128.6 LEARNER DATA REPORT

The learner data report had been distributed to governors, highlighting current learner data and mock exam results.

The Vice Principal highlighted an error on Chemistry and advised the board it should not be coloured. The governors acknowledged that this showed signs of initial improvement in Chemistry.

Governors were advised that following mock week results being published, some subjects had completed immediate re-sits with some of their students and there was evidence of greater improvement.

Concerns were raised regarding high grade A2 subject results which seemed to be significantly below average.

RESOLVED to note the report

128.7 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013/14

The Quality Improvement Plan had been updated 28 February 2014 and distributed to governors.

Governors acknowledged Durham University's involvement, providing stretch and challenge work with AS Geology students and were advised it was extremely proactive and a great resources for the subject.

RESOLVED to note the report

128.8 FEEDBACK ON OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS

A report responding to the request made by the Board for feedback on Oxbridge applications was distributed to governors.

In response to a question the Vice Principal advised governors that a Sixth Form College open day would be held at Cambridge in the Easter Holidays and the College would be sending students to this event.

RESOLVED to note the report

FINANCIAL HEALTH

128.9 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FEBRUARY 2014

The financial statements to 31 January 2014 and commentary had been distributed to the Corporation.

RESOLVED to note the report

128.10 BUSINESS PLAN FOR A 3G FOOTBALL PITCH

In response made by the Corporation Stockton Town Football Club's Business Plan for a proposed 3G AstroTurf pitch had been distributed.

The Principal advised the Board that various pieces of information had come to light following Stockton Town Football Club's presentation to the Corporation which lead her to believe she had been misled. The Principal had since emailed the football club outlining her concerns but had not received a response.

RESOLVED that the Chair would write to Stockton Town Football Club advising the Corporation would remove their offer of £75K, until their concerns had been clarified.

GOVERNANCE

128.11 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING [26 APRIL 2014]

[Item 63.4] The Audit Committee had recommended the Corporation approve the College Disaster Recovery Plan and following the committee's review of the IT Disaster Recovery Plan via email the Corporation would be recommended to approve this as an appendix to the Disaster Recovery Plan. The Finance Manager advised the Board there were inconsistencies between the Disaster Recovery Plan and IT Disaster Recovery Plan.

[Item 63.1] The Audit Committee had considered the College's current external auditors (Evolution Business & Tax Advisors LLP), offer of a refund on the fees charged of £250.00. The Board were advised that the College were now in receipt of the refund.

RESOLVED that the Senior Management Team would consider the Disaster Recovery Plan and IT Disaster Recovery Plan further and it would be brought to the Audit Committee meeting on 25 June 2014

128.12 SEARCH & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING [5 MARCH 2014]

[Item 53.6] Governor Induction & Training Policy

RESOLVED to approve the Governor Induction & Training Policy

128.13 DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Corporation will be held on Monday, 28 April 2014.

What has been the impact of the meeting on students and learning at Stockton Sixth Form College?

- Rigorous review of Mock Results
- Request to consider feedback from Oxbridge Applications
- Considered Stockton Football Club's business plan – considering the reputation of the College

How well have the reports contributed?

- Good RAG rating on Quality Improvement Plan and Mock Results reports

Approved by the Corporation:

----- Margaret Hirst, Chair of the Corporation

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