

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



THURSDAY 4 JULY 2013

Report: Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2013
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

GATESHEAD COLLEGE

Present: Robin Mackie (Chair)
Rebecca Anderson
Keith Cann Evans
Catherine Dennis
Sally Hancox (via Telephone Conference)
Darren Heathcote
Ivan Jepson
David Mitchell
Ian Renwick
Allan Steele
Vivien Shipley
Mark Taylor
Richard Thorold

In attendance: Mick Brophy
Judith Doyle
John Holt
Nadine Hudspeth
Gwyneth Jones
Emma Moody

1764 Welcome/Background to the meeting/Apologies

Robin Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Emily Cox, Kevin Fitzpatrick, John McElroy and Chris Macklin.

Sally Hancox participated in part of the meeting via video telephone. All participants in the meeting were able to hear all other participants for the full duration of the meeting.

The Chair explained the context for calling the special Board meeting. The Principal would be leaving the College on 31 July 2013; the Transition Committee had been working on the transition plan following the Principal's decision to resign. The process of recruiting a new Principal was underway. At the same time, the potential options for collaboration with Middlesbrough College had been discussed at the May Board meeting and a lot of work had been undertaken by the Principal and his team since then.

The selection panel had met and considered the "longlist" of candidates and had chosen four candidates to be considered for the Principal/CEO of Gateshead College role. Members were being asked today to consider the appropriateness of delaying that process until the way forward with Middlesbrough had been agreed.

Agenda No: 4

Gateshead College's SMT had been working with the SMT from Middlesbrough College to see what collaboration might look like and what the benefits and risks might be. Following comments from Governors at the last meeting, a further report had been produced and was presented to Governors.

A member challenged the idea that collaboration had been "agreed" with Middlesbrough College. His understanding was the Board had agreed to explore the options for collaboration. The Principal said that, in fact, the College was already collaborating with Middlesbrough, the Board was now being asked to agree the legal structure for that collaboration.

1765 Conflicts of interest

The Chair invited members to declare any interests on any item on the agenda.

A member advised that she had been in discussions with Middlesbrough College about doing some consultancy work for them. She had halted those discussions pending outcomes of the whole process.

No other interests were declared at this stage in the meeting; however, members noted that should the direction of debate on any item on the agenda result in a potential conflict of interest, this should be indicated during the meeting. Members were also reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes to be made to the declaration of interests.

1766 Approval of confederation with Middlesbrough College

The report and the record of discussion on it are 'closed to public access'.

RESOLVED to approve the initiation of the process to confederate with Middlesbrough College subject to the review of the metrics and an appropriate contract being drawn up and approved by the Board

Governors voted on this resolution; ten voted in favour and three voted against and therefore the resolution was passed.

The Principal advised that this process would have to be concluded within a fixed period of time. The process of pulling together a legal document can be done reasonably quickly, but it was the detail which needed to be thought through.

The Executive Team, with the exception of the Principal left the meeting at 6.10pm

1767 Proposal to postpone interview process

The record of discussion on it is 'closed to public access'.

Governors voted on the resolution about postponing the interview process for a new Principal until a decision had made as to the detail of the confederation with Middlesbrough College; four voted in favour and nine voted against.

RESOLVED to continue with the interview process already undertaken for a new Principal

Agenda No: 4

1768 Appointment of interim Chief Accounting Officer

RESOLVED to discuss the appointment of an interim Chief Accounting Officer at the Board meeting on 4 July 2013

1769 Appointment of interim Principal

RESOLVED to discuss the appointment of an interim Principal at the Board meeting on 4 July 2013

1770 Any Other Business

Gazelle Update

The Chair advised that he was looking for authority for himself, the Director of Finance and another Governor to review and sign off the documents.

The Clerk said that the College was putting forward the conditions and legal documents were being drafted.

Ian Renwick agreed to look at the documents.

The Board agreed to delegate the authority to review and approve the final form of documents to the Chair and Ian Renwick and the execution of those documents, with advice from the Director of Finance

The meeting then closed at 6.55pm