

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2013



GATESHEAD COLLEGE

**Report:** Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19  
September 2013  
**Author:** Clerk  
**Action:** Approve  
**Status:** Open

**Present:** Chris Macklin  
Ian Renwick  
Emily Cox  
David Mitchell  
Ivan Jepson  
Keith Cann Evans  
Robin Mackie  
Judith Doyle  
Catherine Dennis  
Rebecca Anderson  
Darren Heathcote

**In Attendance:** John Holt  
Mick Brophy  
Nadine Hudspeth  
Emma Moody

## 1794 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair said that, in light of the letter received from Newcastle College, he was proposing to rearrange the agenda for the meeting to consider the said letter first, before moving on to the consideration of confederation with Middlesbrough College.

The Chair also welcomed Judith Doyle as the new Principal of the College.

Apologies were received from John McElroy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Sally Hancox and Mark Taylor.

## 1795 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared on any item in the agenda. If interests arose during the course of discussion, members were reminded to declare them.

## 1796 MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2013

The Minutes of the Special Board meeting on 11 June 2013 were presented to the Board for review and approval.

A Member enquired about the Resolution on page 9 of the Minutes. It was clarified that the contract with Middlesbrough was being presented to the Board for approval today. Documents had been circulated in advance so that Governors had enough time to digest information.

There was an opportunity for Michael Hopkins to present to the Governors today. There would be no agreement for confederation unless the Governors passed a resolution today.

#### **1797 CONSIDERATION OF LETTER FROM NEWCASTLE COLLEGE GROUP**

**The content of this discussion is confidential, although the decision of the Governors is open.**

##### **Decision**

**Governors unanimously agreed to reject the proposal from Newcastle College and agreed that Gateshead should prepare a formal response to be sent back to Newcastle College ASAP.**

The Governors then considered whether or not the proposal for the Newcastle College should be disclosed to students and staff, to prevent any allegation of miscommunication if an announcement be made about confederation tomorrow.

**The Governors unanimously agreed that in the spirit of openness and to ensure that staff felt there had been adequate communication and they were involved in the working of the College, that they would be made aware that proposals had been submitted by Newcastle but that Governors were not going to pursue those proposals. The detail of the proposal would not be circulated but the decision to reject would be.**

#### **1798 CONFEDERATION PROPOSALS**

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

**Following further consideration, the Governors unanimously approved the Resolutions put forward to confederate with Middlesbrough. It was agreed that the Federation Agreement would be executed on behalf of the College, subject to any minor modification or amendment thereto.**

**It was further resolved that any ancillary or incidental changes be made to the other governing documents of the College, to take into account the College's arrangements and obligations under the Federation Agreement, to include changes to the Instrument and Articles of Government.**

The Chair of the Board said he had a comment in relation to Board communications. He said that clearly a lot of work had gone on in relation to the documentation, but he thought that communications needed to be clearer. His points were duly noted.

It was agreed that the Director of Marketing would need to work with the Chair and the Principal to prepare a statement for Newcastle and a letter in response. We need to be clear in our communications with staff and pupils to avoid any allegation that we have misled anyone.

There will be frequently asked questions prepared for staff and the media.

**1799 APPOINTMENT OF REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

**The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Emily Cox as a Member of the Remuneration Committee.**

**1800 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board were notified that a letter from OFSTED had been received in follow up to the previous inspection and a further review visit by OFSTED. This had been on the agenda for the next Academic Standards Committee and the Chair of that Committee suggested that it be circulated to all Governors, which was approved.

The Principal reported that she was in the process of ensuring that the College was on track to deliver its strategic plan. She had started to work with staff and made it clear what the expectations of the Governors and the College were. She wanted to focus on delivering those objectives and she would report back fully at the meeting in October.

There was no further business and therefore the meeting then concluded at 5.15pm.