



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016

Report: Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2015
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

Present: Robin Mackie (Chair)
Judith Doyle (Principal)
Chris Macklin
Nick Hurn
Christine Jones
David Mitchell
Darren Heathcote
Mark Taylor
John McElroy

In attendance: Samantha Pritchard (Clerk)
John Holt
Nadine Hudspeth
John Gray
Chris Toon
Mark Thompson
Suzanne Clark (Minutes)

1938 Chair's welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Emily Cox, Josh Everest, Sally Hancox, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Ian Renwick. Christine Jones was welcomed to her first official meeting of the Board of Governors.

The Chair asked Committee members to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda. Members were reminded to declare any conflicts that arose during the meeting.

1939 Minutes of the meeting dated 15 October 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

1940 Matters Arising

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1941 Student Governor Appointment

The Clerk asked that Governors note that Josh Everest was recently appointed as the College's Sabbatical President and Josh will sit on the Board as a Student Governor. Members were advised that Josh has recently been absent from work due to illness but is expected to return in the next week.

The Chair asked that the Clerk write to Josh on behalf of the board wishing him well.

Appointment of Josh Everest was noted.

Action: Clerk to write to JE

1942 Finance Matters

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1943 Self-Assessment Report 2014/2015

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1944 Kingston Park and the Future Technology Centre (Barmston Court)

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1945 Principal's Report

The report was presented by the Principal.

The Principal advised that the report provided an overview of the sector and the College. It was highlighted that only 35% of Colleges were judged to be good or better, putting the College's Ofsted result into context.

The Principal highlighted the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review, in particular the Apprenticeship levy and the move to 19-23 loans. The College's provision has been modelled to reflect this. Sixth Form Colleges will be able to pursue Academy status which will put them in a different VAT position to further education colleges and would, in addition, exempt them from the Local Area Reviews.

The Principal reminded governors that the College had planned for a decrease in financial support in 15/16 & 16/17 and so was on a strong footing going forward and the governors should take assurance from this. The Principal will be meeting with all staff in the next week and to discuss the context of the review.

A member added that in relation to the Apprenticeship Levy, an increase in the number of apprenticeships should be a great opportunity for the College. The Principal added that the new Director of Business Development will have a specific objective linked to this. The Principal stressed that companies have confidence in the ability of the College to deliver on apprenticeships so this is very pleasing news.

The Principal made reference to the recent student activities and events. This shows great engagement with employers. The College are continuing to give students the employment edge. The College are not complacent and students are continuing to be the most highly prized in the jobs market.

The Chair commented that the report is very interesting reading. It shows that the College do a very good job and there has been a tremendous effort by the Board, the Principal, Executive Team and the staff of the College.

The report was noted.

1946 Chair's review of business

The Chair reported that Gateshead College had recently been included in the Ofsted HMI Annual Report. The Principal was invited to the launch of the report in London and was the only member of the FE sector at Westminster. It was a very proud moment as Gateshead College was held up as best practice in the sector. The Principal has been asked to speak at an event on 11 December 2015 to discuss Gateshead College's journey to outstanding. This will include the excellent governance in place, leadership and how the College looks to keep its focus on its students.

The Chair stressed how important it is that the Principal, with the support of the Executive Team and the Board, is seen at these events.

The Chair advised that the Principal has recently joined the Board at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, replacing Richard Thorold who continued in this role for some time to allow the Principal to focus on establishing herself within the College. The Chair asked that the Clerk write to Richard thanking him for extending his governorship in this important role.

The Chair reported that Ivan Jepson has resigned as a member of the Board. The Chair asked that the Clerk write to Ivan thanking him for his contribution to the Board of Governors. The Chair is currently considering the now vacant Vice Chair role.

Following a rigorous and transparent recruitment process, Ivan will take up the post as the College's new Director of Business Development in the new year. The Chair is delighted to welcome Ivan to the Executive Team.

The Chair advised that he and the Principal are in discussions with Cardinal Hume School around a multi-themed initiative and further updates will be provided at future board meetings.

The Chair reported that the Local Area Review for the North East is likely to take place around April 2016 (at least this is the indicative timeframe). Whilst it is unlikely to be any earlier, it may be later. The process will involve a series of five meetings. Wave 1 is currently underway but no recommendations have been made yet. This is of particular interest and the College will be able to learn from the first two waves and will have a view of the kind of recommendations made. Site visits will form part of the reviews where the College's estate is reviewed and it is felt that some of the work the College is currently undertaking shows strength in relation to this.

The Chair added that the reviews will be looking for consolidation. Money, efficiency and effectiveness are the key drivers. The reviews will be led by Chairs supported by Principals. The Chair will rely on Chairs of Committees for advice. The Principal and the Chair will work very much together in relation to this. The Chair provided an update on the College's work to date, its intended approach and then responded to questions. Other members of the Executive Team and governing body will be called on as and when needed.

A member asked how much information has been shared with staff and students in relation to the reviews. The Board requested assurance that the College will not allow the review to detract from 'business as usual'. The Chair commented that Gateshead College is very well placed and will need to continue to be innovative but that tough decisions will need to be made.

Action: Clerk to write to Richard Thorold thanking him for extending his governorship at the QE.

Action: Clerk to write to Ivan Jepson thanking him for his contribution to the Board of Governors

1947 Any other business

The Principal thanked all members for their contribution towards the success of the College. Catering students had been commissioned to put together a gift for Governors as part of their work in both preparing food and sourcing local produce. The Principal wished all members a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

1948 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 17 March 2016 at 4.30pm.