
MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, NORTHLAND BUILDING, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS COMMENCING 1700

PRESENT:

Mrs J McKeever (Governing Body Temporary Chair)
Ms M Breslin
Mr P Canavan
Mr S Gillespie
Mr K Kennedy (from 1737)
Mr L Murphy (Principal & Chief Executive)
Mr B O'Neill
Prof M Ó Néill
Mr B Quinn
Mrs C Shongo
Mr P Thompson
Ms V Toland

JOINING REMOTELY

Mrs D Creevy
Mrs S Fisher
Mrs M Gormley
Mr F Smyth

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr P McKeown, Finance Director
Dr C O'Mullan, Director of Curriculum & Academic Standards
Mrs É Doherty, Secretary to the Governing Body

100.1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Governing Body Temporary Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No apologies were received.

100.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/ DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no conflict of interest declarations. There were no declarations of any other business.

100.3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2023**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Draft Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on 8 March 2023

The Draft Minutes of the Governing Body meeting were taken as read and agreed were an accurate record of the meeting. Members agreed to adopt the Minutes.

PROPOSED, Mr P Canavan

SECONDED, Mr B O'Neill

100.3.1 MATTERS ARISING – Verbal Report

There were no matters arising.

100.4 FIANANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – Mr P McKeown, Finance Director**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Report 1 Draft Partnership Agreement: DfE Letter March 2023

Report 2 Budget 2023/24 - verbal report

Report 1 Draft Partnership Agreement: DfE Letter March 2023

The Secretary of the Governing Body referred to Report 1, the Draft Partnership Agreement from the Department (DfE) dated 14 March 2023. The letter acknowledged the constructive feedback received on the Draft College Partnership Agreement, including the Annual Engagement Plan and the updated College Risk Assessment. The Department (DfE) provided the proposed final amendments to the documents. The College has agreed these changes. The Draft Partnership Agreement is still subject to review by DfE Corporate Governance Department and the Department of Finance before it can be formally signed-off.

Report 2 Budget 2023/24

The Finance Director reported that the Budget Letter 2023/24 was received that afternoon from the Department (DfE). The College was assuming a 'baseline budget' as of 2022/23 with a few adjustments. Taking into account savings of £1.3m identified by the College there was a pressure in excess of £2m.

The Budget Letter has allocated additional funds over and above the baseline position of £28m. This was welcome news however significant financial pressures remain. The Department (DfE) have agreed to fund the cost of the 2023/24 NJC pay rise (a pay offer that has yet to be accepted by the Unions side). A positive adjustment in MaSN funding and further funding for Traineeships is expected. The Prison Contract (DoJ) funding has yet to be confirmed.

Dr C O'Mullan reported that the College is expecting an increase in Traineeships for 2023/24 with an increase of approximately 200 enrolments on 2022/23 reflecting the new Sector Curriculum Plan.

It was highlighted the Budget Letter was for planning purposes only and subject to approval from the Permanent Secretary. It does not take into account any pay increases for lecturing staff in 2023/24.

The Budget 2023/24 will be brought through the Resources and Board meeting in June 2023. The Finance Director took time to answer Governors questions.

100.5 PRINCIPAL & CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS – Mr L Murphy

The Principal reported that the STS Project has been completed.

Three validations have been received for the Open University Foundation Degrees to commence in September 2023. An information evening will take place on 30 May 2023 to promote these courses.

100.6 GOVERNING BODY TEMPORARY CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Governing Body Chair reported that she attended the 10X Conference in Higher Education in Stranmillis College on 24 March 2023. It was an excellent conference. She has joined a Sector Working Group looking at how 10X can be integrated into CDP's.

The Governing Body Chair judged the recent Project Based Learning Awards (PBL). An art display was available in the Boardroom from the Sustainability Awards. The Social Impact Award was won by the students in HMP Magilligan. The link to the '360 TV Studio Tour' that won the Innovation Award will be shared with Governors

Report 1 Board Roles and Membership

The Temporary Governing Body Chair apprised members that Mr P Canavan and Mr B Quinn terms of office will complete shortly. Their last Board meeting will be the June meeting. The Department (DfE) have made two appointments to the Board who will be joining shortly, Mr P Clancy and Mrs S McMahon.

Congratulations and thanks were passed to Mrs C Shongo in her new role as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee and Mr B O' Neill will take on the role as Vice Chair to the Board.

The Governing Body Chair also notified members that she was stepping down from the role as Chair and Prof M Ó Néill has been appointed in a temporary capacity from 1 June 2023.

Mr Kennedy arrived to the meeting during this item.

100.7 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to note.

100.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An update was provided at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 May 2023 on the TAMs system and at the request of the Governing Body Chair, Ms M Breslin, Governor and Compliance & Admissions Manger apprised the Board on this update.

The Finance Director informed members that a recent procurement exercise took place for the Canteen Contract. COVID appears to have impacted the decline in tenders received. Canteen Income is also down. The College has a statutory responsibility to provide canteen provisions for pupils receiving free school meals. Discussions are taking place to consider managing this provision in-house. HR are looking into the potential transfer of staff through the Transfer of Undertaking Protection of Employment (TUPE) Process.

Members were content with this proposed arrangement.


PROPOSED; Mrs J McKeever

SECONDED; Mr B Quinn

100.9 RESERVED BUSINESS – taken separately

The main meeting ended at 1805.

Date of next meeting: 27 June 2023

Signed:  -----
Governing Body Temporary Chair

Date: 27 June 2023

APPROVED