

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY TRAINING SESSION 15.02.2023

PRESENT: R Davies (CG and Chair), H Ashton (CG), S Brown (EM), H Burrows (Deputy Student Gov), M Cameron (Student Gov), J Castor (CG), A Coleman Cooke (EM), M Gaze (CG), A Hanif (EM), E Kunonga (CG), M Lamb (CG), S Lane (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), M Laidler (CG); D Lusardi (CG), P Lynn (CG); S Mirsalehi (CG), A Pajura-Jaszczak (Staff Gov), S Shepherd (EM), D Still (Staff Gov), P Studd (CG), J Tait (CG), I Wright (CG).

OFFICERS: A Adamson (VP), Z Foster (Clerk), S Marshall (ED); K Parkinson (ED), B Robinson (DP), O Rodley (VP), M Russell (VP).

KEY: CG College Governor EM External Member
DP Deputy Principal VP Vice Principal
Clerk to the Corporation ED Executive Director

IN ATTENDANCE: T Pierce (AD – Teaching and Learning) and members of the wider SLTT (P Blewitt (AP), P Watt (AP), J Barwell (AP), C Yule (AP), R Gray (AP) for item 3, R Lawson (External Reviewer till 6pm)

1. Apologies for Absence

C Cannon (EM), M King (CG), M McClintock (CG), E Rennison (EM), P Sharp (CG) and M Wild (Student Governor).

R Davies welcomed R Lawson, External Reviewer to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest – none declared

3. Teaching, Learning and Assessment – Quality of Education Workshop led by B Robinson and T Pierce Welcome to SLTT members

B Robinson introduced the members of the wider SLTT to the Governing Body.

The workshop included: Ofsted research into the EIF and how the framework was developed, an overview of TLA quality assurance (including consideration of the data) and how judgements were made, implementation and critical aspects of outstanding provision, current strengths and weaknesses and staff CPD.

B Robinson outlined the key aspects of the Ofsted Inspection Framework (EIF) specifically the essential knowledge and key research findings.

Governors then took part in a pedagogical approaches task feeding back the outcomes.

Assessment both formative and summative were outlined then T Pierce took Governors through the characteristics of outstanding provision and what might be seen on governor walkthroughs.

The quality assurance process was highlighted which included pop-ins; learning walks; marked work scrutiny; external reviews (including deep dives); License to Practice programme and developmental observations.

To conclude future developments were outlined including data tracking; sharing good practice within the College; networking to share good practice and management development.

Governors' questions included: how formative assessment was demonstrated (other than by lesson observations) - this included student conversations and teacher and manager triangulation with the lesson, through the use of deep dives, and the diverse and flexible range of characteristics which could be considered to be part of an outstanding provision; how teachers were kept interested and stimulated within the profession (development outside of management) - examples included ownership of CPD; research, and teaching and learning mentors (who were all still active practitioners); where the data came from and consistency of that data; how 'what isn't seen in a lesson observation' was logged – data being the starting point followed by themed pop ins, learning walks, follow ups etc to ensure triangulation of evidence.

4. **Safeguarding Training**

A Adamson led the Governors through the annual safeguarding training. She outlined the comprehensive team structure and focused on the role of staff and of Governors' responsibilities as per the Keeping Children Safe in Education document (part 1). She also highlighted what was included within the umbrella of safeguarding children and adults and of the many areas this included. She then outlined the current situation with regards safeguarding reports which had grown exponentially over the past year.

A Adamson led the Governing Body through an activity highlighting the complexities of a safeguarding situation over time.

She then outlined the impact of trauma on students and the many forms this could take and potential outcomes.

The Prevent Duty was clearly outlined including Martyn's Law and how the College was responding to that. A Adamson also reminded governors that were on a two year cycle to repeat their prevent training (as per College staff).

The presentation also outlined detail on online safety, mental health and the College's approach to sexual violence and harassment and of the whole College community approach to the Safeguarding agenda.

Questions and discussion included: the reasons for the growth in reporting and how this has occurred over time; the number of historical safeguarding incidents reported; local threats within Prevent including a discussion on Incel; and support to teachers delivering safeguarding training to students.

5. **Enhanced Inspection Update/Workshop**

Z Lewis outlined the reasoning behind the position paper on how the College was meeting regional skills (Ofsted as of September 2022) and of the three judgements available. She then drew out the key features of the position paper sent out as pre reading highlighting the reasoning behind the **strong** judgement.

Governors' feedback, comments and questions included: whether there were any gaps with employers and how the curriculum was employer led; H Burrows commented on student views; the complexities of finding out about post College employment more than one year after leaving (long range destination conversion) and the value of this data; employability skills more widely; employer engagement and return on investment to employers.

Governors **agreed** that the judgement was strong but gave suggestions to expand the evidence base and B Robinson detailed the next steps in relation to this.

6. **Strategic Plan Update**

Z Lewis outlined the consultative process which had been taking place (200+ people across a range of stakeholder groups including employers, local groups and students) in respect of the revised plan which had resulted in greater emphasis on local ambition; current climate and people.

She outlined the recent mapping exercise in relation to the Tees Valley and Durham job openings 2021-2025 highlighting the good match the College had to many of the areas and explanation where the match was less strong.

6.1 Draft Strategic Plan 2023-25 – the main changes to the strategic plan were outlined which included a greater reference to social prosperity; collaboration; a wider move from 'One Voice' etc to 'Our' throughout the plan; the curriculum development priorities, the removal of KPIs from the plan and how success was measured.

Governors **agreed** to the revised plan and its wider publication and were satisfied that the consultation process had been sufficiently wide ranging.

7. **Additional Item - TTE Project Update**

Z Lewis gave a full update of the cost movement in relation to the TTE project as a result of the tender processes.

She then outlined the complexities of reclassification on the project and of the subsequent DfE grant scheme and potential impact on the programme should suitable borrowing not be available.

Detail was then given on next steps to progress the project as a result of recent DfE conversations which confirmed support to the progression of the current scheme and timescales and of action to look at increasing the grant and providing any related assurances via a letter of comfort (binding legal guarantee) by 28 February so that the scheme can progress accordingly. Detail was also given to the future borrowing process being developed by the DfE which would be required later.

Questions included: clarification on reclassification and College Board independence (which would be ongoing despite the return to the public sector); what were the options if the TTE project couldn't go ahead and the need to keep the outstanding provision; and a request to outline the outstanding technical risks when it comes to decision making by the Board.

The next steps for the Board were outlined which were:

- To allow R Davies and P Sharp to work with the College team to finalise the DfE offer, contracts and revised financial plan
- Propose a written resolution to the Governing Body for approval to enter into construction contracts – highlighting clearly any outstanding risks at that time

The Governing Body ***agreed*** to the above.

8. Matters for Publication

The full presentation was made available in the Governance Hub for reference immediately after the meeting.

9. Time and Date of Next Meetings

- Monday 13 March 2023 5pm for Ordinary Governing Body
- Friday 5 May 2023 12-4pm for Strategic Planning Session

10. Any other Business

- Reminder to fill in IT questionnaire

The meeting ended at 8.05pm