

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT SESSION OF 19 APRIL 2021

PRESENT: R Davies (CG and Chair), H Ashton (CG), A Coleman-Cooke, (CG), C Cooney (CG), M Gaze (CG), J Golightly (CG), S Lane (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), P Lynn (CG), M McClintock (CG), S Mirsalehi (CG), S Mudd (Student), P Sharp (CG), D Still (Staff Governor), P Studd (CG), A Thompson (Student), I Wright (CG).

OFFICERS: J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), Z Foster (Clerk), C Kipling (VP), S Marshall (ED), K Parkinson (ED), J Steel (VP).

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

1. Apologies for Absence – R Davies

R Anderson (CG), L Holdsworth (CG), M Laidler (CG), D Wade (Staff Governor).

The recording of the session was **approved**.

2. Declarations of Interest – R Davies

None declared.

3. Introduction

R Davies welcomed Caroline Cannon to the Governing Body.

R Davies outlined the main aims of the session.

All governors present briefly detailed what they brought to the Governing Body in relation to their professional experience.

4. General Overview on what makes Good Governance

4.1 The Top 10 FE Commissioner Team Recommendations to Boards

R Davies drew out some of the key recommendations to Boards and detailed the % income for staffing for the College which was very good.

4.2 The Views of Ofsted on Outstanding Governance including 4.3 – R Davies and M Gaze

R Davies introduced the topic highlighting his view of good governance which included having concise, quality data and asking open questions.

M Gaze then outlined the approach and expectations of Ofsted focusing on evidence in relation to the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and inspectors' considerations of those responsible for governance.

She then detailed the College's most recent inspection (September 2018) highlighting the key strengths of 'good' and gave an example of an outstanding report drawing attention to those areas which evidenced an 'outstanding' approach.

Common Governance issues were discussed including challenge; expertise with Teaching and Learning, use of data; lack of triangulation; and the need for a strategic (not operational) focus.

M Gaze drew attention to successful and unsuccessful approaches to Ofsted inspection improvements highlighting the need to take effective actions (sufficiently quickly) where the impact could be evidenced as being key.

Some examples of possible Ofsted governor questions were highlighted for whole board and individual reflection in order to prepare for both future inspections and for a general approach to governance more widely.

4.4 The Survey Results – R Davies

R Davies drew attention to some of the key themes from the survey results returned including: visibility of governors; the wish for a return to face to face meetings; confidence with challenge; diversity of the Board; and evidence of link/nominated member work further inform governors.

The full results were available in the pack for Governors to consider.

5. Breakout Group Session

5.1 Group Discussions took place on:

- Where the board is
- Suggest objectives to a) update this year's QUIP and b) next year's objectives
- In light of White Paper and pre-reading identify any areas where our strategic plan may need to be refocused.

5.2 Group Feedback

Each group fed back to the meeting and the group agreed the phase the Board was in. The QUIP would be updated based on the feedback.

Note - the collated feedback was shared post meeting

6 Conclusion/Final Comments – R Davies

R Davies thanked governors and external members for their involvement in the session and asked that any feedback go to Z Foster.

M Gaze was also thanked for her lively and informative presentation, and SLT for their honest and helpful views of the Governing Body.

6.1 Personal Reflection 'Which two things will I improve on to become a better Governor?'

R Davies reminded Governors that they were required to send in their improvement actions which would be used as part of the 1:1 meetings in the summer.

Action by all Governors to email this to Z Foster by noon on Friday 7th May 2021

7 Date and Time of Next Meetings

7.1 Strategic Planning – Saturday 8 May 2021 10-2pm

7.2 Governing Body (Ordinary) Meeting – Thursday 15 July 5-8pm

8 Matters for Publication

Both presentations (general and M Gaze's in relation to 4.2 and 4.3) were shared with the Governing Body post meeting.

9 Any other Urgent Business – none taken

The meeting ended at 6.40pm