

## THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

### CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING – 22.02.2021

**PRESENT:** R Davies (CG and Chair), R Anderson (CG), H Ashton (CG), A Coleman-Cooke (CG), C Cooney (CG), M Gaze (CG), L Holdsworth (CG), M Laidler (CG), S Lane (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), M McClintock (CG), S Mirsalehi (CG), S Mudd (Student), P Sharp (CG), S Shepherd (EM), D Still (Staff Governor), P Studd (CG), A Thompson (Student), D Wade (Staff Governor), I Wright (CG).

**OFFICERS:** J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), G Duffy-McGhie (Dir.), Z Foster (Clerk), C Kipling (VP), S Marshall (ED), J Steel (VP).

**VISITORS:** C Nicholls and D Woodcock representing AoC North for Item 4 only.

**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

J Autherson (EM), J Golightly (CG), S Wilson (EM), K Parkinson (ED).

R Davies welcomed S Mudd (Student Governor) to her first meeting.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest – R Davies

None declared

#### 3. Re-opening Update – Z Lewis

Z Lewis informed Governors of the expected return to College for students and staff from 8th March and of the College's planned approach. Some key questions still remained until further guidance comes out - Governors would be updated accordingly.

Governors asked about the administering of tests and the volunteer system was outlined including potential complexities depending upon the final guidance.

#### 4. Sector Update – led by C Nicholls and D Woodcock from AoC North

C Nicholls and D Woodcock were welcomed to the meeting.

C Nicholls gave a comprehensive sector overview including: full breakdown of the FE White paper; the impact and challenges for the sector as a result of Covid; Government announcements for Colleges both in relation to current and longer term objectives; and key priorities for the sector and governing bodies.

Governors' had a lively discussion which included: acceptance that the White Paper was generally positive for the sector; pay imbalance with schools and HE; collaboration across the board and specifically in relation to the College; Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) locally and nationally; qualifications offer by FE and HE going forward; New Skills Boot Camps bids; devolution; outcome payments; funding changes and multi-year settlements; and new initiatives (including Lifetime loan entitlements; College Business Centres etc.)

R Davies thanked C Nicholls and D Woodcock for their presentation.

#### 5. Virtual Teaching and Learning Update – G Cumiskey/J Chance and G Duffy-McGhie

G Cumiskey and G Duffy-McGhie took governors through the key aspects of the College's approach to virtual teaching and learning and of key developments to progress as a result of a recent digital innovation

workshop. Governors were taken through the active blending learning (ABL) process and the related CPD for staff based on JISC frameworks.

J Chance took governors through the MyDay communication app for students and of future roll-outs.

Governors' discussion and questions included: positive staff benchmarking on digital proficiency; the ABL model in more detail; quality assurances adaptations; investment costs associated with MyDay; IT skills and access of IT equipment of parents/students to use MyDay; positive student engagement with digital platforms generally; areas where engagement lower and alternatives/additions used with further considerations to be discussed at Standards Committee on 8 March 2021.

## **6. Strategic Investments Update – Z Lewis**

Z Lewis gave a full overview which included: current budget overview; applications for 2021; 5 year budget and financial plan; each of the capital plans in turn; financial health and TTE update and options in detail.

*Governors noted their appreciation for the excellent presentation.*

Governors' discussion and questions included: GCSE and A Level centre assessed grades – impact and mitigations for both 2020 and 2021 cohorts; consideration of the high level budget and resulting investment options; Towns Fund options; DfE Condition Funding Scheme complexities; TTE timeline for decision making; affordability of aspects of the digital strategy; financial health and forthcoming changes; digital options with cloud usage; requirements and options in relation to campus expansion; culture of TTE and of the College and benefits to students of combining in-college and digital strategy.

### **Governors agreed to:**

- Go ahead with the Towns Fund plans as outlined
- Continue with laptops for students but come back with greater detail to a future meeting
- Earmark funds for future plan of TTE
- Progress with DfE bid in relation to TTE and test assumptions at Corporate Services Committee

The next steps and timeline in relation to the TTE bid were outlined with the requirement for an Estates Strategy to be approved by the deadline of 15 March 2021. Options were discussed in relation to Governance approval which would be finalized post meeting.

H Ashton left at 7.30pm

## **7. Safeguarding Training – J Steel**

This item was not taken. Action by J Steel who would issue a recording of the training session with accompanying powerpoint slides and if governors had any questions they could email her direct.

## **8. Date of Next Meetings**

The next meeting of the Governing Body would be Monday 22 March 2021 at 5pm.

R Davies informed Governors that a further development session would be arranged for April 2021 (this was later confirmed as **Monday 19 April 2021 at 5pm**), ahead of the Strategic Planning session on 8 May 2021.

## **9. Matters for Publication**

Action by Z Foster to share the all powerpoints with the Governing Body post meeting.

## **10. Any other Urgent Business – none taken**

## **11. Reserved Matters – none taken**

*The meeting ended at 7.55pm*