

CORPORATION OF KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE

Minutes of the Corporation Meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2011 at 17.30 hours

C 1220 Present Jonathan Grice, Chair
Derek Arnold
Annie Conway Petr
Mick Cooper
David Cory
Paul Crowley
Andy Dobson
Sonia Farnaby
Harry Grove
Stella Hammond
Kerry Houghton
Kevin Sant
Karen Stevens
Carol Warren

C 1221 Quorum 6

C 1222 In Attendance Angharad Hale, Clerk to the Corporation
Derek Harrison, Director of Resources

C 1223 Apologies Adrian Davis
Mark Garnier

C 1224 Declaration of Members' Conflict of Interests

It was agreed that item C1232 should be discussed as a confidential item. Although papers had been circulated to staff and student governors, it was noted that discussions may develop in such a manner as to create a potential conflict of interest for staff and student governors. Therefore, it was agreed that staff & student governors would withdraw from the meeting for this item.

C 1225 Minutes of Meeting Held on 20th January 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2011, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chair.

C 1226 Matters Arising

i) Shared Services

It was reported that the Hereford & Worcestershire consortium have been successful in securing funding for the 2nd phase of the project. Colleges have signed a memorandum of understanding. This does not involve a financial commitment but does include a commitment for staff to attend meetings on joint procurement and virtual learning environments.

ii) Inclusion of figures in Safeguarding Annual Report

Following the query raised at the last meeting, the Principal has investigated the matter and found there to be no risk as the report is not circulated any

wider than the Corporation. In the case that a Freedom of Information request should be made to view the report, only figures are contained in the report, no individuals are identified.

iii) Code of Governance

The Chair reported that governors had attended a consultation event in Walsall in February and that the Code will be featured at the LSIS conference at the end of March. The Code is being introduced for the whole sector and AoC have requested that governing bodies formally consider and minute their intentions regarding adoption of the Code during the summer term 2011. Implications will include that from 2011/12, compliance will need to be stated in the financial statements and any non compliance will need to be explained. It is planned to be an agenda item for debate at the May Corporation meeting.

iv) CRB checks

A further matter arising was brought regarding item 1211 from the previous minutes, where it was agreed that outgoing governors need not undergo the CRB check provided they are not in college unsupervised. It was clarified that being in the presence of a member of staff would cover this point.

C 1227 Principal's report

Details having been circulated, it was noted that enrolment figures for 16-18 year olds have been reduced to around 93% of target but ALR (Adult Learner Responsive) figures are now closer to target. Figures have been affected by a group of learners on the second year of two year courses who turned 19 before the start of the second year. It now appears that these learners will be SFA funded, which has potentially worked in the College's favour this year, as it strengthens its position with regard to 19+ learners and reduces the risk of clawback. There is little risk of in year clawback for 16-18 year olds but funding allocations for next year will be affected as the group of learners have been discounted by YPLA when determining the College's indicative allocation for 2011-12.

Governors noted the outstanding achievements of the BDU with regard to recruitment and the range of high profile clients that the college is working with. It was felt that the college needs to highlight these achievements through the use of the PR opportunities.

A discussion took place regarding the indicative funding allocations for next year and it was acknowledged that the college needs to put strategies in place to deal with the significant cuts. SMT have been assessing the implications and are considering the appointment of an external agency to assist in the process, to be considered under item C1232. Governors were keen that the college should provide reassurance to learners that the quality of the learning experience will remain undiminished. The Principal endorsed this point.

It was noted that the college have been involved in and co-operated fully with the SFA investigation into Ricide Ltd. The college have been able to provide reassurance regarding the local Ricide contract but are yet to hear the outcome of the investigation which centres on a contract directly held by

Ricide in the South East of England. Governors queried the potential consequences if fraudulent activities are found elsewhere. If this should be the case, there could be implications for Ricide continuing to trade and therefore potential implications for the college's contract with them. The Principal confirmed that a scoping exercise has been carried out but that the SFA have made it clear that the college should not communicate with Ricide Ltd regarding the matter at the present time.

Following the recent Ofsted monitoring visit the final report was expected in mid-March. The inspectors were clear that the reason for the visit related to the Notice to Improve. The Principal noted that the judgement regarding 'Outcomes for learners' as 'insufficient' was disappointing but factual as success rates had not improved year on year in the last 3 year period. The college was deemed to have made 'reasonable' progress in the other 5 areas. The full report will be considered by the Standards Committee.

Queries were raised regarding staffing and it was confirmed that most of the departures related to changes in the ICT services and VLE teams.

The building project had been delayed post tender due to work carried out to bring the tendered sum within budget. Further work had been necessary regarding the structural design and governors queried why King Sturge had not identified these issues from the outset. The Principal confirmed that the issues were identified as risks from the beginning and a structural engineer was appointed. Having gone through the process of redesigning, the building will still address the college's key priorities within the planned budget.

Timescales will be tight but King Sturge and ISG Regions have confirmed the project can be completed by September and the conditions of the SFA grant can be met.

C 1228 Curriculum Links Proposals

Details having been circulated regarding proposals for groups of governors to visit the college and spend time with a section, it was suggested that other section managers could possibly join the governors over lunch. The student governors present were asked for their opinion regarding governors visiting during lessons. They felt students would welcome governors having the opportunity to see the college from a student's perspective and did not feel it would be disruptive. An open day at the Glades was being planned for 8th April in connection with the Sports and Fitness course and Kevin Sant felt that governors would also be welcome to join that event.

It was agreed that the proposals should be implemented.

C 1229 Mentoring for new governors

Details having been circulated, governors were in agreement with the proposals.

C 1230 Committee Reports

i) F&P Committee 27th January 2011

Details having been circulated, the Chair noted the committee's approval of the contract for the building project.

ii) Standards Committee 3rd February 2011

Details having been circulated, the Chair had no specific issues to raise.

The student governors' mentor governor wished to endorse the suggestions in item ST467 regarding future promotion of the role.

It was noted that LSIS were planning to produce a toolkit for student governors which should be available in the near future.

C 1231 Any other business

None raised.

At this point in the meeting staff and student governors withdrew.

C 1232 Restructuring

Details having been circulated, this item was discussed and has been minuted as a confidential item. Governors agreed to approve SMT recommendations.

C 1233 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2011 at 17.30pm

The meeting closed at 19.35 hours

Chair_____Date_____