



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A PRAYER

Item 1- Members present:

Mike Sedgwick [Chair]
Sr Patricia Goodstadt IBVM
Denis Robson
Ann Clynch
John Gibbons
Tom McGee
Sr Bernadette Turtle IBVM
Brian McNulty
Mary Heaney
Niall Wright
John McNerney
John Gibbons [Parent Governor]
Angela Ralph

Apologies were received from

Sr Anne McEvoy IBVM
Arthur Culshaw
Julian Skyrme

Apologies were accepted.

Also in attendance

Sean Gaughan [Finance Manager]
Celia Wallace [Clerk to the Governors]

The Clerk reported that Arthur Culshaw had expressed a wish to step down as Vice Chair. Sr Patricia nominated Mary Heaney as Vice Chair and Tom McGee seconded. Mary Heaney accepted the nomination and was elected as Vice Chair. Sr Patricia also reported that Mary's status as governor had been changed from co-opted to Foundation Governor by the Trust Board. She also reported that Martin Byrne's term of office had come to an end. Along with the other members of the Governing Body, she thanked Martin for his long and valuable service on the board, his challenges which were always with gentle enquiry and his support to the college with regular attendance at college events.

Item 2- Declarations of Interest

Niall Wright declared an interest – Director of AA Projects

Item 3- Items of a confidential nature

It was agreed that any items of a confidential nature relating to the staff, finances or the operation of the college would be taken in a confidential part of the meeting. There were no such items.

Item 4- Minutes of the Governing Body meeting of 1st July 2015

- [i] The minutes were approved as a correct record.
- [ii] The minutes were authorised for publication in accordance with the Articles and Instruments of Government.

Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes of 1st July 2015

There were no matters arising that were not covered under other agenda items

Item 6 – Area Reviews

The Principal briefed the governors on the following:

- The Rationale for the Area Reviews
- Involvement of the Colleges and Governing Bodies
- Aims of the Area Reviews
- The Programme of meetings for Principals, Chairs & Governors
- Site Visits – Loreto's will be on 6th October
- Programme for Outcomes/Recommendations, Decisions by Governing Bodies and Implementation

She also reported on the meetings she had attended to date, giving a full account of the Steering Group meeting attended on the 21st September.

Mary Heaney followed this with a presentation giving the full context and outlining the process of the review in Greater Manchester. She highlighted the role of the Governing Body in the Area Review.

There will be a meeting of the CES and relevant dioceses with John Barber (DfE) and Peter Mucklow on the 8th October. Sr Patricia will be attending this meeting.

There was a detailed and lengthy discussion regarding possible recommendations and the governors' response to these. It was felt that the position of Trustees was not fully understood and this could be problematical. Governors had a clear vision for the College which was outward looking, helping others, and clearly demonstrated by:

- addressing the issues of the inner city
- having a Mission we see and believe in
- working with close collaborators
- being resilient and responsive
- Maths Core Group

The Governors affirmed their trust in the Principal's judgment and vision: the good practice was evidenced with a record of support and guidance to other schools and colleges..

To facilitate further discussion as matters progress, it was agreed that there would be two additional meetings of the Governing Body with the Area Review as the single agenda item on:

Thursday 26th November 2015 at 6pm

Thursday 17th December 2015 at 4pm

Item 7 – Strategic Plan 2015/16

As had been agreed at an earlier date, the consideration of the 3 year strategic plan took place at this meeting.

This has been updated to reflect:

- the impact of the area reviews
- delivery of the local and national agendas
- recruitment and transition
- curriculum reforms
- Teacher Training

The College will continue to do what it does well and the plan is similar to that of previous years.

This, together with the review of the plan for 2012-15 was fully discussed and approved by the governing body.

Item 8

[i] Initial Comments on Examination Results

The Principal gave an overview of the summer results. These results were not the final data and did not include the outcomes of centre remarks in History, English Literature A2 and English Language AS and A2. The outcome of an extended review for Psychology AS was also awaited plus other remarks. The standard of the marking this year was a great concern-with an increased number of remarks compared to last year. The initial ALPS analysis for the College continues to show high value added for AS, A2 and BTEC. Strategies to address areas of concern have been put in place and work continues to be done to find the most effective ways to cope with linearity. The results would be subject to the usual scrutiny by the Standards Committee and a full analysis presented at the next Governing Body meeting.

The Governors once again acknowledged the hard work that had been undertaken by students, staff and management in achieving these excellent results and offered their congratulations.

[ii] Enrolment

It was reported that this had gone well. The number of students on roll was approximately 3,330 which meant that the target of 3209 for 15/16 will be exceeded.

Item 9 - Update on Funding 2015/16

The Finance Manager reported that the college had exceeded its funding target. The Maths and English GCSE results this year in the high schools had meant increased numbers of students enrolling without grade C in one or both of these subjects. These students were following suitable courses-either GCSE or stepping stone qualifications.

Item 10 – Health & Safety

(a) Policy Statement

It was reported that this was the annual review with no fundamental changes, only name changes due to changes in personnel.

The policy statement was approved by the Governing Body and signed by the Chair. The next review date: October 2016.

(b) Accident Statistics 2014/15

The report on incidents/accidents was presented to the Governing Body and accepted. It was proposed and agreed that there should be some more information in the report as to the nature of the incident to reflect any trends or issues rather than a global figure. It was noted that once again there were no reportable accidents.

Item 11 – Manchester Teaching Alliance and Teaching Schools

Ann Clynch updated the Governors on the recent activities of the MTA and Teaching Schools. She highlighted the involvement in ITT as mentioned in the Strategic Plan and also the support to be given to St Matthew's and the continued work with Our Lady's. The improvement in Our Lady's GCSE Maths results as a result of the work done was noted. John McNerney reported on the pressure for Academies to become multi-academy trusts.

Item 12 – Loreto Heads Annual Conference – Germany

The recent two day conference was held in Germany lead by Sr Magdalen. The Heads visited Augsburg and Munich, the places associated with Mary Ward. It was a prayerful and reflective pilgrimage. It was felt that there was real value in all the LEEN heads and principals getting together and the conference was both informative and enjoyable.

Item 13 – Feedback from ACVIC

Mike Sedgwick and Mary Heaney took the meeting through the issues discussed at the recent ACVIC meeting and the workshops attended by them. The conference was dominated by the impending area reviews and the implications and possible recommended outcomes. The Bishop spoke very powerfully and David Igoe (Chief Executive of SFCA) and Christine Fischer (Assistant Director & Legal Advisor CES) also addressed the Principals and Chairs.

Item 14 – Review of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

The Governing Body reviewed the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. It was agreed that these would be revisited when the new I&As were agreed. Sr Patricia is still in discussions with Christine Fischer (CES) regarding these.

Item 15 – Register of Interests

The Clerk reminded Governors to complete the new Register of Interests.

Item 17 – Governors' SAR

Arrangements for the SAR were agreed.

Item 18 – AOB

- (a) Governors were cordially invited to visit their allocated Hall following the letter they had received from their Head of Hall.

(b) Governors were invited to:

Mary Ward Day on the 22nd October 2015

Certificate Evening on 16th December 2015 – the Bishop will be the Guest
Speaker

The College Production of ‘Guys & Dolls’ on 8th – 10th December 2015.

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A PRAYER.