



Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2016

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A PRAYER

Item 1- Members present:

Mike Sedgwick [Chair]
Mary Heaney
Sr Patricia Goodstadt IBVM
Sr Anne McEvoy IBVM
Sr Bernadette Turtle IBVM
Arthur Culshaw
Julian Skyrme
Ann Clynch
John Gibbons
Tom McGee
Niall Wright
John Gibbons [Parent Governor]
Angela Ralph

Apologies were received from

Denis Robson
John McNerney

Apologies were accepted.

Also in attendance

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

Item 2- Declarations of Interest

Niall Wright declared an interest – Director of AA Projects
Sr. Anne McEvoy –Re: Institute Building

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 5th July 2016

- [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 5th July 2016

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

Item 6 – Area Review

It was reported:

- Catholic colleges were still awaiting further guidance from the DFE/CES regarding academisation.
- The Implementation meeting took place in September and the Implementation & Oversight Board was set up to ensure that the approved plans were progressing and to oversee the delivery of the curriculum. Brendan O’Shea from Xaverian was representing the Chairs and Danny Pearson from Aquinas was representing the Principals of the catholic colleges.
- GFE colleges are progressing with their plans
- There was a recognition that the schools needed to be brought into the review and 16-19 funding aligned.

The sixth form colleges are continuing to investigate academisation with legislation to enable this expected to be in place by Christmas. The LEEN executive is meeting to discuss the possibility of an umbrella trust.

Item 7 – One Year College Development Plan

The Principal continues to report three times a year on the 3 year Strategic Plan. The College Development Plan reported on the detailed departmental plans to reflect:

- Review of 15/16
- Development plan for 16/17

The College will continue to do what it does well and the plan is similar to that of previous years. This 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 and she outlined the rationale for sitting the new AS in June and was pleased with the outcomes. 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 fully supported the Subject Support Programme and although they recognised that it was an expensive provision they fully approved the additional monies being spent.

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

The Principal updated the Governors on enrolment. There was a wide ranging discussion on a number of related matters.

Item 9 - Update on Funding 2016/17

The Finance Manager reported that the total funding including Bursaries and Free Meals for 2016/17 had now been agreed.

Item 10 – Mary Ward Review

This was now ready to go to the Trust Board for their approval.

Governors regarded this as a ‘stunning document’ which should contribute to Section 48. They wished that their comment be conveyed to the staff. The Principal informed the Governing Body that the document would be going out to the communities this year.

Item 11 – Health & Safety Annual Report

The report this year was presented in a different format following the recent Internal Audit on Health & Safety.

Accident Statistics 2015/16 were presented to the Governing Body and accepted.

These included some background information and comparisons with previous years as had been requested by Governors last year. Governors asked for ‘near misses’ to be tracked and included in the statistics

Item 12 – Staff Support Programme – update and review

Staff Support Programme – a review of the 2015-16 programme was given and a detailed report on the planned 2016-17 programme.

Item 13 – Inspection of Catholic Ethos

The Principal reported on the recent developments:

- CES/Ofsted had now agreed that the inspection of Catholic Ethos would now be carried out under Section 48 in a period two weeks later than the Ofsted inspection
- At the recent ACVIC meeting it had been agreed that a working party should be set up across the SFCs to determine the content and context of such an Inspection as the model for schools was not suitable for SFCs. It was felt to be imperative that this was done urgently in order to avoid the implementation of an unsuitable process.

Item 14 – Teach Manchester – Loreto College Activity 2016/17

Ann Clynch updated the Governors on the recent activities of the MTA and Teaching Schools. She highlighted the involvement in conversion courses for Maths teachers, Physics conversion courses, Maths Ambassadors (with support from MMU). She also highlighted her role as Chair of the Maths Core Group.

Item 15 – Loreto Trust Board Meeting – Update

Sr Patricia reported on the recent Trust Board meeting highlighting:

- Report on the Governors’ Conference held in July 2016
- A new Board will be appointed in the coming months due to terms of office being completed
- Composition of the Board and representation from schools and colleges
- A detailed update and discussion of all the recent educational developments
- Update and discussion of other developments in Loreto schools

Item 16 – Loreto Heads Annual Conference – London

The recent two day conference was held in London lead by Sr Magdalene. The Heads visited significant places associated with Mary Ward. It was a prayerful and reflective pilgrimage and there was real value in all the LEEN heads and principals getting together and the conference was both informative and enjoyable.

The Trust Board had commented on the importance of the experience but it was agreed that the timing needed to be looked at as it was taking place at a very busy period.

It was felt that the members of the Trust Board should be invited along with past heads and principals. Next Year's venue would be Vienna/ Bratislava.

Sr Patricia informed the Governing Body of the sudden illness of a former head of a Loreto School. Prayers were requested for her and her family.

Item 17 – Feedback from ACVIC

[a] Governors' Sessions

Mary Heaney took the Governors through the meeting of the Chairs of Governors.

The topics discussed included:

- Review and impact of the Area Review process
- Potential Academisation
- Impact of linearization and curriculum reform
- Government consultation: 'Schools that work for everyone' –potential impact on Catholic SFCs
- Governor Search Committees – mechanisms for the recruitment of governors

[b] Ann Clynch took the meeting through the issues discussed at the recent ACVIC meeting and the workshops attended. These included:

- Admissions
- Overview of Results
- Anxiety about budgets
- Reflection by Monsignor Jim Curry 'for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'
- SFCA update – Bill Watkins

Item 18 – Review of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

The Governing Body reviewed the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. These were agreed subject to the following change in the SO:

'Province Leader of the IBVM' to be replaced with 'Loreto Trust Board'

Item 19 – Register of Interests

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

Item 20 – Governors' SAR

Arrangements for the SAR were agreed.

Item 21 – College Trips – Update

[a] Science Trip - Change of Country

Due to the Zika virus being reported in Vietnam it was now proposed to change the proposed trip to Canada

[b] DofE Trip to Canada in July

These were approved by the Governing Body subject to the usual conditions

Item 22 – AOB

[a] Review of Policies

The following policies were tabled for review.

- (i) Staff Development Policy – this was held over for approval at the next meeting
- (ii) Shielding Policy
- (iii) Anti-Bullying Policy
- (iv) Anti-Drugs Policy

The minor changes for the Shielding, anti-Bullying and Anti-Drugs policies were highlighted and these policies were approved

[b] Invitations:

Governors were invited to:

- Mary Ward Day on the 20th October 2016
- Certificate Evening on 21st December 2016
- The College Production on 6th – 8th December 2016
- Parents' Conference / Taster Day 5th November 2016

[c] Mike Sedgwick expressed his wish to resign as Chair and his gratitude to have served as Chair for many years during which he had seen the College go from strength to strength. He thanked the Governing Body for their enormous support over the years. He proposed Mary Heaney to take over and this was seconded by a number of governors.

Mary accepted and proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Mike for his commitment and sterling service over a number of years. This was seconded by Arthur Culshaw who said he had been an outstanding chair over a period of great change in the college. Ann Clynch spoke of the very good professional relationship between them and Sr Patricia expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Trustees for Mike having taken on the role at a difficult time and she was very proud of the work he had done.

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A PRAYER.