



Board of Governors

Minutes of the Board of Governors held on Wednesday 11th May 2016

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A PRAYER

Item 1- Members present:

Mike Sedgwick [Chair]
Mary Heaney
Sr Bernadette Turtle IBVM
Sr Patricia Goodstadt IBVM
Ann Clynch
Denis Robson
Arthur Culshaw
Niall Wright
John Gibbons (Parent)
Tom McGee
John Gibbons
Angela Ralph

Apologies were received from

John McNerney
Sr Anne McEvoy IBVM
Brian McNulty
Julian Skyrme

Also in attendance:

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

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 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 - Mary Ward SAR

Governors were invited to complete the section for the Mary Ward SAR. They were asked to comment on their contribution to the LEEN themes of:

Nurturing the person of the Educator
Support and Guidance

Item 5 - Area Review/ Academisation

Mary Heaney took the meeting through the paper:

- **Progress of Area Review since the last board discussion on the 23rd March 2016.**
 - ❖ The 4th meeting of the Steering Group (SG4), focused on assessment of the options presented to the Review team, took place on 21 April.
 - ❖ None of the individual options presented by the RC SFCs was supported on the grounds that further information was required to enable full assessment
 - ❖ In relation to an outline proposal for a Catholic Collegiate, a more comprehensive and detailed submission was required so that this option could be more fully understood
 - ❖ There remained issues to be resolved by the DfE and the Catholic Education Service regarding the impact of academisation on Catholic SFCs
 - ❖ There was comment that the Catholic SFCs serve a particular community and there is likely, therefore, to be a certain level of duplication of offer with that of other colleges in order to ensure a full curriculum is available to Catholic learners.
 - ❖ It was recognised by the Chair that a ‘one size fits all’ approach would not be appropriate and that there will be different situations in different parts of GM, hence the request for a ‘place based’ approach.
 - ❖ Where additional information has been requested from colleges, the deadline for submission to the review team is 12/5/16

- **Outline Draft Report**

An early draft of the Area Review Final Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There would be an individual summary of each college’s position at the start of the review. Mike Keohan, Director of Vocational Education at BIS, indicated that the pace of the Review in GM was a cause for concern within BIS and DfE and that it was critical that the SG was in a position to reach a final set of agreed recommendations on 25 May and noted that GMCA’s Devolution Deal was dependent on the completion of the Area Review.

- **Governors’ Briefing**

A Governors’ Briefing followed SG4 with an abbreviated version of the content outlined above. The Chair emphasised that the agenda for the area review was about quality of provision for learners as well as financial sustainability. She reiterated that there would be place-based curriculum rationalisation. Governors were advised to consider future eventualities rather than the colleges in their current context and, while being loyal to their own institution, to think of the wider GM requirements.

- **Next Steps for SG**

SG5 is scheduled for 25/5/16 and this will again be followed by a Governors’ Briefing. At this meeting a final list of recommended options will be agreed. Chairs and Principals will be asked to take these recommendations back to their Boards asking them to formally approve or reject those relating to their institution.

A date for SG6 will be circulated shortly, Chairs and Principals will report back to this meeting the decisions of their Boards. The meeting will also focus on the implementation plan, including governance and the future role of the Steering Group.

▪ **Follow-up meeting for RC SFCs 27/4/16**

The RC SFCs requested a follow-up meeting to SG4 with the SG Chair. This took place on 27/4/16. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Catholic Collegiate would not continue as a collective proposal. Instead, a common mission statement for the Collegiate would be agreed and referenced in the individual proposals from the colleges.

Each college would proceed with individual proposals ranging from continuing as standalone institutions with the door remaining open to potential academisation, to academisation proposals as Single Academy Trusts or Multi Academy Trusts depending on the views of the relevant diocese or order.

Gemma Marsh (Acting Director of Skills and Employment, New Economy).

emphasised the need to show how the colleges would act as signposts to the right skills pathway in the GM area, with a focus on how IAG would be supported. Equally important would be to explain where duplication is required in the interests of the learners and to indicate a commitment to continue to review curriculum balance going forward. She offered to review draft proposals before submission and offer constructive comment.

▪ **Church schools and academies: memoranda of understanding**

Formal agreements between the Department for Education (DfE) and the Church of England and the Catholic Church were published by the DfE on 18/4/16. The government pledges to protect the religious character of RC schools when they convert to academies.

Governors discussed at length the possible benefits of becoming an academy and noted that a number of issues still needed to be resolved for all VICs but particularly for the Catholic Colleges.

The final draft of the Academisation proposal and the accompanying Financial Plan were also considered at length. The rationale document had been revised following recommendations by Gemma Marsh.

It was agreed by the Governing Body that these documents should be submitted together on the 12th May but they emphasised that all options should be kept open at the moment including the stand alone option.

Governors asked that the Principal should give feedback to the staff with a strong statement of their support for senior management, appreciating the work done to ensure stability and the sustainability of the ethos of the College.

Governors will continue to be informed as developments take place.

Item 6 - Review of Policies

[a] Admissions Policy

This policy is for entry to the College in 2017. The only proposed change was to reflect the change in the GCSE grades for Maths and English. It is proposed that 4/5 be used to replace the current C grade.

This was approved

[b] Privacy Policy

This policy was approved.

THE MEETING ENDED WITH A PRAYER

