

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporation held on 17 March 2022 at 1730h in Room FO84 (with some participation by Teams)

Present: Michael Priestley (Chair); Elijah Bennett; Elaine Clinton (from Min No 20/22); Peter Ellwood; Aaron Groggins; Nigel Holliday; Robert Milburn; Chris Nattress; Denise Rollo (until Min No 26/22); Lee Todd (from Min No 19/22); Tanya Weston; Beth Wordsworth
By Teams: Paul Hardon

Apologies: Alison Hampson; Phil Jardine; Amie Calvin

Also present: By Teams: Karen Wilson (Deputy Principal)
Daniel Braithwaite (Assistant Principal); Jane Murray (Clerk)

16/22 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2022 held in open session be approved and signed as a correct record.

17/22 Declarations of Interest

In Minute no 20/22 Tender Update:

Aaron Groggins; Robert Milburn; Nigel Holliday; Beth Wordsworth
by reason of their employment at Sellafield Ltd

Tanya Weston by reason of a close family relative employed by Sellafield Ltd.

In Minute No 24/22: Civils Project

Paul Hardon as an employee of the lead employer.

18/22 Appointment of Teaching Staff Governor

Resolved –

- 1) That, following election, Lee Todd be appointed as Teaching Staff Governor; for one year in the first instance, renewable for a further three years (equivalent to one term of office);
- 2) That Lee Todd be appointed to the Audit Committee.

19/22 Confidential Session and Minutes

Resolved –

- 1) To move into confidential session

- 2) That the minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2022 held in confidential session be approved and signed as a correct record.

Aaron Groggins; Robert Milburn; Nigel Holliday; Beth Wordsworth and Tanya Weston withdrew by reason of their Declarations of Interest.

Elijah Bennett withdrew by reason of being a student under the age of 18 (in line with the Instrument and Articles of Association on financial matters).

Elaine Clinton joined the meeting

20/22 Tender Update – Confidential

The Principal brought the remaining Board members up-to-date with the tender process.

Aaron Groggins; Robert Milburn; Nigel Holliday; Beth Wordsworth, Tanya Weston; Elijah Bennett re-joined the meeting.

21/22 Strategic Update- Confidential

The Principal updated the board on national and local policy developments:

The Skills White Paper had passed through the final stages and, once given Royal Assent, will put into statute the Government's policy objectives, which include the drawing up of Local Skills Improvement Plans with a key role to play by the Chambers of Commerce. Lobbying continues on the role of colleges in the process.

It was noted that the Minister responsible for policy on high needs paid a visit during half term to the College to talk to parents and carers of high needs students at Lakes College. The Chair noted that the parents and carers did a really good job with the Minister clearly engaged in their discussion.

The Digital Accelerator business case, submitted as part of the Workington Towns' Deal, has been approved by Allerdale Borough Council and is now being submitted to Government for the grant letter. It was asked whether there was connectivity with proposals under development in Copeland and the Principal felt that there was communication and best endeavours to link up and complement.

The remainder of the minute is redacted.

22/22 Finance Update - confidential

The Deputy Principal updated the Board in respect to the financial position; contracts; staffing and capital projects.

23/22 National College for Nuclear Financial Statements

Although held in confidential session, this minute is not redacted.

As members of the Company the Board received the National College for Nuclear financial statements, which the Deputy Principal noted were pleasing in that a small surplus had been generated. This did mean a small amount of corporation tax may be due. Plans are underway to ensure that the surplus is re-invested in the business for this year.

Resolved – the Board noted the NCfN financial statements 2020-21.

Paul Hardon withdrew

24/22 Civils Project- confidential

The Assistant Principal outlined a partnership project with a local employer.

Paul Hardon rejoined the meeting

25/22 Ofsted – confidential

The Principal reported back on a pilot inspection, which had taken place.

Denise Rollo left the meeting

26/22 Open Session

Resolved – that the meeting be re-opened.

27/22 Key Performance Indicators

The Deputy Principal reported the Key Performance Indicators. It was noted that 16-19 learners were relatively stable, although slightly under contract. The T-Level offer has helped to sustain numbers.

Apprenticeship starts have been very strong. Apprenticeships in learning have flatlined. In response to questioning it was felt that there was a residual impact from the pandemic in respect of breaks in learning.

Turning to apprenticeship performance, it was asked about the significant dip in progress. It was explained that this was owing to a new basket of measures which had been introduced to give richer picture and which gave more challenging targets. It had been felt that the old methodology relied too much on training officer assessment. There was also a concerted effort to bring those who had fallen behind back up to target.

Adults and advanced level loan numbers were very low, both hit by Covid and unlikely to recover this year.

HE recruitment had been strong. Restructuring of the HE offer is intended to extend the offer. Moving to HE progress, work was being undertaken to bring progress back to target.

Work continued to bring progress on English and maths back up to target. It was noted that at least there had been notification about the way exams would be held in the summer to which work could be targeted. In respect of FS maths and English, it was felt that there was a cohort of about 30 on each, with an improving picture as the year had gone on.

28/22 Curriculum Update

In highlighting areas which had not as yet been discussed in any detail, the Assistant Principal noted that T-Level planning for the next wave was well underway.

Work was also underway to develop a suite of short courses for employers to complement the existing offer, anticipated to be completed by the end of March.

By way of demonstrating that life was returning to normal, there had been some enrichment trips, including trips to universities and a university fair at Old Trafford. Catering students had been asked to cater for an external event.

It was questioned why there had been an apparent dip in TLA performance, it was felt that there were a number of probationers in the mix and, as had previously been reported, there had been post-pandemic behaviour issues which had impacted on performance. It was anticipated that this would improve again.

Staff, Staff and Student Governors withdrew

29/22 Confidential Session

Resolved –

- 1) That the Board minute in respect of Remuneration be approved and signed as a correct record;
- 2) That the draft remuneration minutes of 24 February 2022 be received and noted.

The meeting closed at 1920h