

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2017 AT 6.00 PM IN THE BOARDROOM AT STAFFORD COLLEGE

Present: Syd Birkin, Karen Dobson, Steve Jones, Simon Leech (Chair), Bernard Lovatt, Jeremy Pert, Lesley Rollason, Jim Rowley, Lynsey Shearsmith, Francis Tunney

In attendance: Craig Hodgson (Vice Principal), Ian Hookway (Director of HR & Communication), Carol Thomas (Director of Curriculum & Performance), Lesley Morrey (Director of Student Engagement & Partnerships), John Prescott (Clerk), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

Part 1

17.5.1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Gareth Jones and Alan Aston.

17.5.2 Declarations of Interest

Simon Leech, Karen Dobson and Craig Hodgson all declared an interest as non-remunerated Directors of Axia Solutions Ltd and Gradbach Ltd.

17.5.3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2017 - Part 1

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

17.5.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

17.5.5 Principal's Report - Part 1

1.1 – Lego News

Members noted the good news in relation to Lego activities and the college being used as a venue for the First Lego League events. Karen added that the tables used for the event, produced by KMF, have been donated to the College and are now in the Lego Room at Stafford. She advised that the funding we are seeking from Be Together will be to support science and technology activities at the Centre.

1.2 – Science & Technology Opening

Karen reminded members about tomorrow's opening of the new Centre at Stafford College where Lord Stafford will be guest of honour.

1.3 – Keynote Speaker at Stafford

Karen was delighted to report that Professor Brian Cox will be visiting the College on 29 November to deliver a keynote presentation to students. She added that three of our very talented art students have produced excellent portraits of Brian which we hope he will sign.

2.1 – A Level Overview

Karen reminded colleagues that 2016-17 is the last year where separate sets of data for each site will be produced. She was delighted to confirm that this was the best year ever for A Level performance with a very pleasing improvement in high grades in many subjects.

In addition, recruitment to Stafford's A level programme now stands at 89 students as of today, and we are hopeful that this will provide a really strong foundation from which to rebuild this area of provision at that site.

2.2 – NuLC

Members were very pleased to note the stunning results at NuLC and Karen was delighted to report that these place us amongst the highest performers in the country.

2.3 – Stafford College

Karen advised that Stafford's results increased in 16-18 and all ages all quals and we are confident that these will place us above the national average. The focus will now be on level 1 and all areas of adult performance going forward to move everything up.

2.4 – Employer Responsive

Employer responsive work at NULC is still significantly ahead of the headline rate and Karen was pleased to add that Stafford has also seen a big improvement. 2017-18 will see a single set of data for the group and it is, therefore, vital that we maintain our position and move Stafford's performance up to equal that at NULC.

Bernard asked about this year's A Level students going to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities and Karen advised that 14 students were interviewed for Oxbridge but none received an offer. These young people achieved amazing results and we will now work to identify how we can better prepare them for interview etc.

17.5.6 **Clerk's Report to the Corporation**

John explained that his report looks back at last year's performance which was dominated by the merger, the change of name to NSCG and the sad passing away of George Stonier.

Members noted the changes in membership through the year and Lynsey confirmed that elections for new Student Governors will take place shortly. Sylvia Butler's term of office came to an end after 16 years and Peter Hooper stepped down after 8 years. John advised that a new Stafford based staff Governor will be sought through the

normal election process.

Syd and Jeremy joined the full Corporation and Paul Buttery and David O'Neil joined Audit and Education & Standards respectively as external members. After consideration, members agreed to the appointment of Martin Earnshaw as a full member of the Corporation and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Members noted the attendance at Corporation and Committee meetings over the year which was above the sector average, even though the figure was significantly affected by the non-attendance of the staff governor from Stafford.

Members considered the Governor Manager Pairings at annex 2 and John advised that he would ask managers to initiate contact with their governor links. He also agreed to speak to Lesley Rollason outside the meeting about her Manager pairing.

Members considered and approved the delegated powers for the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Education & Standards Committee, noting the financial limits in line with the College's Financial Regulations.

Members considered the Standing Orders which had been amended to reflect the merged organisation and, after consideration, these were approved.

Finally, John referred to contracts which required the application of the College Seal relating to the lease of Palmbourne and in respect of the subcontractor warranty for mechanical and engineering works in the Science & Technology Centre.

Travel expenses were paid to two members at a total of £238 for the year which members noted.