

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION HELD ON
TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009**

Present:

Members: Derek Lyon (Chair), John Barker, Jen Billingham, John Calvert, Hazel Charlesworth, Gill de Bourcier, Peter Fitzpatrick, John Goddard, Dave Kelly (Principal), Liz Kershaw, Mike Phipps and Eugene Tumelty

In attendance: Jan Fielding (Vice-Principal)

Clerk: Ed Elvish.

Apologies: Grant Cronin

1 Conflict of Interest

Members confirmed that they had no conflict of interest with the business of the meeting as detailed in the agenda.

2 Minutes

Documents received:

- Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

4 Reports from Committees

4.1 Employment Policy Committee

Hazel Charlesworth presented the report of the Employment Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2009

Documents received:

- Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st March

The Corporation accepted the minutes of the Employment Policy Committee held on Tuesday 31st March 2009

4.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee

John Barker presented the report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009, deferred from 24th February. He assessed the College's position as, in general, holding its own. Since the meeting there had been no clarification of the position on building expenditure and so at present no requirement for borrowing. The management statistics were not felt, therefore, to be meaningful. The question was raised about whether enabling works were covered. John responded that authorised works should receive 90% reimbursement if work, as feared, were not to go ahead. There would be a need if this were the case to redraft financial information for the July Corporation meeting.

Documents received;

- Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March
- Summary Management Accounts for the period ending 31st Jan
- Management Statistics - Targets

The Corporation accepted the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 3rd March 2009

4.3 Search & Governance Committee

Derek Lyon presented the report of the Search & Governance Committee held on Tuesday 31st March 2009. He reported that, following Jane Dean-Wicoock's resignation, an approach would be made to Michelle Carlisle of the Furness Building Society to see if she would be interested in joining the Corporation.

Documents received:

- Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2009

The Corporation accepted the minutes of the Search & Governance Committee held on Tuesday 31st March 2009 and approved the search for a new governor

5 Buildings Update

The Principal reported that the announcements which had been anticipated at the March meeting on colleges' buildings plans had not been forthcoming. Two weeks later the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council had resigned once it became clear that the LSC was not in a position to fulfil its responsibilities to all of the colleges which had been encouraged to submit buildings project proposals. In the Budget there had been an announcement that a further £300 million was to be spent on those 79 colleges with approval in principle but it was becoming apparent that this would not be sufficient to cover all. A letter received by the College on 24th April had indicated that those with 'shovel ready' projects would be given priority. On the 27th a questionnaire had been received intended to ascertain any position changes. Criteria had been outlined for establishing priority and many of them, such as regeneration and curriculum contribution, were felt to favour the College. By the Corporation meeting in July it was felt that it would be known whether the College was going to be given the go ahead.

6 Academy Update

The Principal reported that there was now a website (www.furnessacademy.co.uk) devoted to the Academy. Work was progressing on campus names, uniform etc. Curriculum planning had resulted in;

1. the existing offer for year 11 in all 3 schools to continue which would be hugely expensive
2. Year 10 were just completing their choice of options although the 36 subject choices at present in the 3 schools would be impossible to recreate
3. year 8 and 9 offers would be broadly similar to existing provision
4. year 7 would be significantly different

April and May would be key times for TUPE transfer. Interviews for the senior posts were to be held during the week after the Bank Holiday. All others should be completed by the end of May except for SEN and catering.

The admissions policy was intended to produce an even split in September between the campuses with the allocation of year 7s on a geographical basis.

DCSF were still committed to new build on both sites with a design process commencing shortly with procurement vested in the Local Authority. The Academy company, or trust, was to be established the following week. The funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the DCSF is absolutely crucial but could be delayed by the legal challenge in Camden which has now gone to appeal.

The project was still felt to be on course and discussions would be needed soon between the College, Furness College and the University of Cumbria about governance arrangements.

In the subsequent discussion questions were raised about the curriculum offering and the role of the College. In view of the complexity of the project there was an offer from the Corporation to the College's senior managers to help in whatever way might be appropriate.

7 Ofsted Inspection Report March 2009

Document Previously Circulated;

- Published Ofsted Inspection Report on BSFC

The Principal reported that there had been many discussions within the College leading to an Action Plan which was to be presented to a staff meeting/celebration event on May 19th. The report of the 14-19 Ofsted visit to Furness was now on the website.

8 Walney Trust

Document received;

- Proposal to create the Walney/George Hastwell Trust

The paper outlining a proposal to strengthen links between Walney School and George Hastwell Special School was presented by the Principal. The Corporation confirmed its acceptance of the role of the College in the formation of the Trust

9 College News

Presented by Gill de Bourcier

- It has been our most successful year in recent years for medicine applications; all seven who have applied have offers, including one who had offers from all 4 universities that he applied to and one who applied last year and received no offers. Students received more guidance in choosing universities to apply to.
- We have three students with offers from Oxbridge,
- College nominated two of last year's leavers for Excellence in Cumbria Awards: Candy Saunders for academic excellence and Erin Catnach for vocational excellence. They have both got through to the finals.
- Maths Inspiration Trip
A group of students was taken to Keswick to hear two speakers:
"What have Mathematicians ever done for us" by Chris Budd and "When Maths meets Psychology" by Rob Eastaway
- Barrow Rotary Technology Tournament
Jack Ambrose, Paul Marriott and Reece Hackett won the event this year. The task was to design and make a device to launch a projectile over 3m, a capsule to open and return to the ground with a parachute. The other Barrow 6th Form College team taking part was Andrew McAloone, Lauren Moscrop and Dan Quayle.
- Following the successful "Be Safe with Alcohol" event in December, the students and staff on the Every Child Matters group are currently organising another event, "Staying Safe", aimed at young people about to live away from home and those about to go on holiday without parents. It will run for the week beginning Tuesday, 5th May.
- The College has been taking part in the new Cervical Cancer vaccination programme; this has involved a series of 3 injections, the final of which is this week. The whole programme has run very smoothly.
- Student Union elections are taking place this week.
- James Beech, one of our A level students, is rowing the Atlantic with his father as part of his gap year.

10 Confidentiality

No items were deemed to be confidential