

Minutes of New College Leicester Trustees meeting held on Thursday 31st January at 5 pm

Present

Tony Barradell – Trustee
Sue Billington – Trustee
Jane Brown – Principal/Trustee
Ian Chakravorty – Trustee
Dipak Patel – Trustee/Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

None

Introductions were made to Angus Fraser who is interested in becoming a Trustee. Angus Fraser informed Trustees that he had been working with the college as an Enterprise Advisor via the LEP for just over a year. He outlined his business experiences.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed as a true record.

3 Company Secretary Report

Tony Barradell presented the Trustees with the annual accounts. He explained to Angus Fraser that the college was required to produce annual accounts and submit these to Companies House since the college was a Trust school. He explained that the Trust depreciates the assets on an annual basis based on advice from accountants.

Trustees discussed the question of carrying out a revaluation of the land and buildings. Trustees voted to not carry out the revaluation at this time as the figures are nominal values as the college land and buildings cannot be sold due to being designated educational land.

Trustees voted to accept the accounts as prepared.

Discussion was held about Tony Barradell passing on his knowledge before he steps down in November from the Trust Board.

Tony Barradell outlined the cost centres piece of work which had been undertaken by Wayne Allsopp. Tony Barradell explained that there was still some work to do on this before it was presented to governors but it showed that the college was making an operating loss at this time. He stated that the community usage was increasing but the concept was not yet breaking even. The Trustees discussed the issue and asked that the true cost be reflected in the cost centres paper. They also asked that the college focuses on ensuring break-even point was reached. Trustees reaffirmed their commitment to creating a community college at the heart of its community.

Action:

- Tony Barradell to submit the accounts to Companies House on behalf of the Trust
- Tony Barradell to pass on the knowledge re Company Secretary to the Trust Board
- Jane Brown to ensure break-even point on community usage
- Jane Brown to ensure that all costs were allocated to cost centres before this was presented to governors

4 BSF Update

Sue Billington informed Trustees that the Local Authority had received tenders for the work which is being commissioned for the college. No start dates have been shared as yet. Sue Billington reminded Trustees that the money for the work had been ringfenced by the council.

Jane Brown confirmed that the college is still unable to present the Trustees with the costed conditions survey but now that the delegation of work had been agreed the Estates Manager, Chris Gowans is close to finishing the first draft of the document.

Sue Billington informed Trustees that the college decided to complete most of the BSF snagging list themselves in order to close off the actions.

Action Agreed:

- Jane Brown to bring costed Conditions Survey/Lifecycle plan to Trustees which outlines which party is completing each element of the work.

5 Governing Body Update

Sue Billington informed Trustees that the Governing Body had recently welcomed a Parent Governor, Owen Jones onto the Board. Trustees ratified this decision.

6 Strategy Discussion

Discussion was held regarding the impact of the new schools scheduled within Leicester.

Jane Brown informed Trustees of the first, second and third preference numbers for admission into New College Leicester for September 2019. She stated that she was pleased with these numbers considering that the college had not started their current marketing programme. She reminded Trustees that a new school was opening this year with a proposed intake of 240 students. The new free school, Castle Mead, is 1.3 miles away from New College Leicester and has been targeting high ability, disadvantaged students. The school will have a focus on Ebacc subjects.

Unique Selling Point

Jane Brown reminded Trustees that the USP of New College Leicester is the well rounded education that the college provides. She explained that the college offered 3 distinct strategies alongside the teaching and learning strategy: Sports and Physical activity; Health and Wellbeing and Arts and Culture. Jane Brown issued Trustees with a copy of the Arts and Culture strategy. She informed Trustees that the college has been working with partners to put a bid into the Arts Council for £1m to create a centre of excellence at the college. She stated that the college was endeavouring to replicate the very successful Sports and Physical Activity strategy which had been in place for a number of years.

Sue Billington stated that she believed that another marketing point should focus around the fact that the college was independent and was working alongside other good and outstanding providers in the best interest of the students. Ian Chakravorty also pointed out that the college was able to quickly respond to the needs of students due to that independence.

Dipak Patel asked that the college consider some close engagement with parents, possibly through a focus group, to ensure that the language used in the marketing is having an impact on the target market.

Ian Chakravorty stated that the college needed to ensure that the story of the journey was also visible so that it was clearly understood by all that the rounded education which the college endeavours to provide is not in response to the new Ofsted framework, but has been the journey that the leadership of the college has strived for over many years.

Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Jane Brown informed Trustees that the college has been awarded £11k by the England Cricket Board to install an artificial cricket square on the site. She stated that the college would seek to work with a local cricket club to develop the sport in the area.

Jane Brown also confirmed that the college had been awarded money from Sport England to refurbish the tennis and netball courts. The planning permissions have been submitted and the college hopes to start the construction in April. She confirmed that the college, via Wayne Allsopp has been working with a local tennis club who hope to use the facilities at night.

Supporting others

Jane Brown informed Trustees that the college had been asked to support Countersthorpe Leysland College with behaviour management. Sue Billington asked if the college was charging for this support. Jane Brown stated that the college was not charging as she felt it was a moral duty to help those who need it. She stated that the college is working in partnership with the Bosworth Academy trust to support who are in need.

Ian Chakravorty asked that Jane Brown ensure that the impact of that support is measured so that the Trustees can evaluate this.

Action agreed:

- Jane Brown and Sue Billington to advertise for a new trustee/Foundation governor with finance expertise
- Jane Brown to provide evidence of impact of work with other schools

7 AOB

Additional Trustee – Trustees voted to accept Angus Fraser onto the Board of Trustees.

Action agreed:

- Tony Barradell to register Angus Fraser as a Trustee with Companies House

Future meeting dates – Jane Brown confirmed the Trustee meeting dates as 4th April 2019

Meeting ended at 6.45 pm