

Minutes of New College Leicester Trustees meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 5 pm

Present

Tony Barradell – Trustee

Jane Brown – Principal/Trustee

Ian Chakravorty – Trustee

Dipak Patel – Trustee/Chair

Wayne Allsopp – Business Development Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Sue Billington – Trustee

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed as a true record.

3 Company Secretary Report

None

4 BSF Update

Wayne Allsopp presented a paper on the current estates management situation. He explained that the outstanding work had been categorised into three lots by the LA – Bucket List 1; Bucket List 2 and Bucket List 3. Bucket List 1 contained works that should be completed by the BSF builders, Galliford Try. This contained 256 items. Bucket List 2 contained work that the LA should be completing. There were 31 items and the majority of these had been completed – only 5 still outstanding. Bucket List 3 was an unallocated list of items to be completed.

Wayne Allsopp informed the Trustees that the college had been provided with a works schedule for the allocated £1.2m of upgrade work on the retained estate. He stated that the work was due to commence in February 2018 and would potentially run for 39 weeks.

Wayne Allsopp stated that phase 1 of the heating works had been completed (£0.5m) and phase 2 would see the college placed on a central building management system. He also stated that the floors in Central Hall and the Theatre had been replaced and the flooring in the Dining Room was currently being worked on.

Wayne Allsopp updated Trustees on the hogweed problem on the college grounds. He stated that the work had been costed and approved in the LA but the work was delayed as contractors were awaiting a signature from a Director in the LA to commence the work.

Discussion took place regarding the conditions survey and it was agreed that the college would commission another conditions survey once all of the works programmes were complete and this would be used as the basis of the costed 25 year life-cycling plan put in place.

Action Agreed:

- Sue Billington work with Jane Brown to seek resolution of the issues raised
- Jane Brown to bring costed Conditions Survey to Trustees which outlines which party is completing each element of the work.

5 Governing Body Update

Jane Brown updated the Trustees on the exam results gained by students in the summer. She explained to Trustees that an indicative Progress 8 figure of between -0.49 and -0.6 was likely.

Jane Brown stated that the Ebacc result was 17% against a target of 11%; and that Basics attainment (Eng and Maths) was 44% against a target of 48%.

Jane Brown stated that the national changes and a lack of precise guidance from exam boards had made it difficult for both staff and students.

Jane Brown noted that there had been some excellent progress made in a number of subjects, however stated that there was more to do.

6 Strategy Discussion

Jane Brown reported that following the response the RSC in February, Sue Billington had received a further letter on the 27th March to inform her that the college would be allocated a Project Lead to discuss ways forward for the college. Jane Brown reported that this had not happened to date – possibly due to the election occurring.

Jane Brown informed Trustees that she had met with the CEO of Learning without Limits, Denise Newsome twice, most recently again in September, and with the Deputy CEO of LEAD, Bobby Thandi in May, as previously discussed.

Jane Brown outlined the recent discussions she had with the CEO of Learning without Limits, and stated that while the CEO had indicated again that potentially New College Leicester would be a welcome addition to the Trust. The CEO stated that they were also in discussions with another secondary school in the county regarding joining the Trust, as well as currently looking at opening a Free School, and therefore Trustees were worried about growth being too rapid. However, Jane Brown stated that the CEO still recommended that if New College Leicester wanted to proceed with their Trust, then the college needed to fill in the on-line expression of interest form and then that would be discussed by their Trustees.

Jane Brown then reminded the Trustees of the position with LEAD Academy Trust. She stated that the visit from the school improvement team did not happen, but the Deputy CEO emailed to state that based on the desk-top exercise carried out, that LEAD would not be moving forward with New College Leicester, despite them moving forward with 2 of New College Leicester's partner primary schools.

Jane Brown also reported that she had made contact with CfBT as they had been originally part of the New College Leicester Trust through the then Chair, Andy Breckon. Jane Brown reported that CfBT would not be interested in pursuing the discussions as New College Leicester was Requires Improvement and on the far edge of their territory. She explained that the strategy of CfBT was to group schools in a local area, and Leicester was not currently one of their areas.

Action agreed:

- Jane Brown and Sue Billington to progress the options appraisal and report back to Trustees

7 AOB

Admissions – Jane Brown informed Trustees that the college was full in all year groups and over number in some of the year groups.

Meeting ended at 6.45 pm