

Minutes of New College Leicester Trustees meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 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

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed as a true record.

3 Company Secretary Report

Tony Barradell reported that the Annual Accounts had been submitted in February.

4 BSF Update

Sue Billington reported that the college had been allocated a Project Manager to oversee the works on the BSF snagging and the works on the retained estate. She reminded Trustees that the college had been allocated £1.05m by the Local Authority and that this had been guaranteed even if the college changes structures.

Sue Billington reported that work was underway in the college but there was still no fully costed plan in place as yet.

Sue Billington reported that the floors in the Theatre and Central Hall had been replaced over Easter, but the tiered seating was still not operational and that this was having a substantial impact on the day-to-day ethos of the college as assemblies were being disrupted.

Sue Billington reported that a meeting had been arranged to see the Local Councillor, Dr Susan Barton and the new Head of Service, Phil Coyne in 2 weeks' time regarding the project planning and current issues in the college.

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

None.

6 Strategy Discussion

Sue Billington reported that she, as the Chair of Governors, had received a letter from the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) regarding the college being designated as a Coasting School. She reported that the Leadership of the college had provided the RSC with detailed information regarding

the 3 year period as well as where the college sat within the DfE identified “similar schools” comparison.

Sue Billington reported that following the response the RSC in February, she 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.

Sue Billington provided an update on the work with Sir Jonathan North Community College (SJNCC). She informed Trustees that following the Governors at SJNCC deciding to pause their progress towards becoming a Multi Academy Trust, she had received a phone call from the Chair of Governors, Mr Tony Greenwood, to inform her that he and the Principal had visited solicitors and that another Governors meeting had been called on the 8th March in order to progress towards academy status.

Sue Billington informed Trustees she had been unable to ascertain the status regarding any agreement reached in relation to New College that had been due for discussion at the 8th March 2017 meeting at SJNCC. Her numerous attempts to contact Mr Greenwood via email and telephone had been unsuccessful in securing any response. The only conclusion she could draw at this stage was that the progress had been halted again.

Sue Billington stated that she and Jane Brown had been considering other options regarding the move towards joining a Multi-Academy Trust, so as not to waste any more time in securing a structural solution for New College.

Jane Brown reported that she had contacted a further 3 Multi-Academy trusts – Lionheart; Learning without Limits and LEAD. Jane Brown reported that despite attempts, she had been unable to speak to anyone regarding Lionheart.

Jane Brown informed Trustees that she had met with the CEO of Learning without Limits, Denise Newsome and with the Deputy CEO of LEAD, Bobby Thandi.

Jane Brown circulated information on the Learning without Limits Multi-Academy Trust. She outlined the discussions she had with the CEO for Trustees and stated that while the CEO had indicated that potentially New College Leicester would be a welcome addition to the Trust, that their Trustees were nervous about growing too fast. 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 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 outlined the discussion she had with the Deputy CEO of the LEAD Multi-Academy Trust. She stated that the initial discussions had been promising as two of the local primary schools had already just voted to join this trust and LEAD’s operational model is to have a secondary school and local primary schools working together on the improvement agenda. Jane Brown reported that she had furnished the trust with a number of documents that they had asked for, and she hoped to have all of the documents to them by the end of the week. She stated that the next part of the process was for their Secondary Improvement Advisors to visit the college to make a judgement.

Trustees then had a comprehensive discussion about moving this piece of work forward and reviewed and re-stated the Non-negotiables for moving forward.

It was agreed that, with the time lost with moving the SJNCC option forward, Jane Brown and Sue Billington would progress these options asap and report back to the other Trustees. It was further agreed that an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Trustees could take place in order to progress this work before the Summer holidays.

Sue Billington stated that there was a meeting of the Governing Body due to take place on the 26th June and she reminded trustees that it was the duty of the Governing Body to vote for any change in structure.

Action agreed:

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

7 AOB

Inclusion Quality Mark - Sue Billington informed Trustees that the college had been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark in the recent 2 day reassessment. She also informed Trustees that the Assessor found the college to be so strong, that he recommended that the college be recognised as a Centre of Excellence as the college was already sharing its good practice.

Trustees asked Jane Brown to pass on their thanks and congratulations to the staff and students of the college.

NHS National Competition – Jane Brown informed Trustees that a student in Y9 had recently won a national competition – Step into the NHS – which was based on promoting the careers available within the NHS. She stated that the presentation of the prize would take place on Wednesday 9th May and that the local paper had been invited.

Cycle circuit – Jane Brown updated Trustees on the progress of the cycle circuit.

Admissions – Jane Brown informed Trustees that the college was full in all year groups and over number in some of the year groups. She stated that the Local Authority had approached the college about taking in extra children as there was a shortage in the city in terms of school places.

Meeting ended at 6.45 pm