

Minutes of the Search Committee

13th October 2009 in the Principal's Office

Present:

Mr P. Alcock
Mr B. Coxhead
Mr R Hill (*Chair*)
Mr M Nencini
Mr R Peacock (*Principal*)
Dr C. Tyler

In attendance:

Mr JD Perry (*Chair*)

1. **Declarations of Interest** None
2. **Apologies** None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd. June, 2009**
 The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising** None
5. **Appointment of the Student Governors for 2009-10**

The Committee endorsed the Chair's appointment of Mr L Goulding to the Personnel & Quality Assurance Committee and Mr M Montgomery to the Finance, Estates & Marketing Committee. The Committee noted the strong involvement of student governors in the Governing Body and the trust shown by the College in facilitating their effective contribution to decision making.

6. **Governors' Attendance in 2008-09**

The Committee reviewed governors' attendance at the Governing Body and the standing committees and noted that generally attendance is good and above target and that this demonstrates the strong commitment governors have to the College. The Principal commented that this is a strength of the College. In the course of a detailed and discussion, **the Committee resolved:**

- (i) **To seek to fill the vacancy for a parent governor by invitation and asked the Principal to identify possible candidates.**
- (ii) **To appoint Mr M. Nencini to the vacancy on the Audit Committee**
- (iii) **To ask the Clerk to prepare an analysis of attendance at the Search and Remuneration Committees, the Governors' Strategic Planning Day and the Accommodation Working Party in order to give a full view of time spent on governance.**
- (iv) **To circulate the attendance figures to all governors.**

7. Vacancy for a Foundation Governor

The Clerk reported that he had written to 48 of the parishes from which the College recruited students in 2008 and 2009. As yet this had not produced a response. Governors felt that this process would take some time. It was reiterated that governors believe that the appointment process must be open and transparent. Governors reaffirmed their commitment to seek to appoint younger, female and ethnically diverse governors whenever the opportunity presents itself. It was reported that a Liverpool business person would be contacting the Clerk about the vacancy. **The Committee resolved to defer a decision until its next meeting.**

Governors considered that past students might be a good source of future governors and the Principal was asked to identify any potential candidates.

The Committee discussed the implications of the Machinery of Government changes underway and in particular whether there should be increased representation from the Local Authority. The Committee considered that the Governing Body had benefitted greatly in the past from the expertise and experience of senior professionals from the Borough serving as governors. As an incorporated body, governors felt that any future political representation might not be as beneficial.

The Committee noted the good working links with the Borough, including the Principal's membership on the Children's Trust and the 14-19 Strategy Group and its Executive Committee. Governors believed that the success of the College is making and will continue to make a significant contribution to education in St Helens.

There is considerable uncertainty as to how the commissioning process between the Borough and the College will work in practice after April, 2010. It was reported that a consultation document will be published shortly by the Young People's Learning Agency on the complex procedures being considered at national level.

The Clerk reported that the Government had announced that if the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill is enacted then it will conduct a consultation in the winter on revisions to the 2008 Instrument & Articles for colleges.

The Committee resolved to keep the situation under review.

8. Any Other Business: The Governors' Strategic Planning Day

Following a detailed discussion of the strategic issues facing the College, the Committee concluded that three sets of inter-related issues face the College:

- (i) The strategic priorities and the management of changes arising from probable reductions in funding, including 'efficiency' savings.
- (ii) The implications for the College of the 'Machinery of Government' changes and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Bill if enacted after April 2010.
- (iii) The implications of changes arising from the outcomes of Council elections in St Helens and the General Election nationally.

The Committee resolved to recommend to the Governing Body that an evening session be held in January to address the resourcing issues and that a full or half day be held in June to consider the implications for the College of any national or local political developments.

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.