
MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIRST MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON TUESDAY 06 JUNE 2017 @1600

PRESENT: Mr M O’Kane (Chair)
Mr P Canavan
Mr S McGregor
Mr G Killeen
Mr L Murphy
Mr B Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Traynor, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Information Services
Mrs É Doherty, Governance Secretary

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with an extended welcome to Mrs S Traynor who was attending her first Education Committee meeting as Vice Principal. The Chair congratulated Mrs Traynor in her new role and added the Committee were looking forward to working with her.

41.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr M Cooper.

41.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No conflict of interest declarations were made. There were no declarations of any other business.

41.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04 APRIL 2017

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper EC 41.3 Draft Education Committee Minutes of 4 April 2017

It was taken that the Minutes were read and were an accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED; Mr M O’Kane

SECONDED; Mr S McGregor

41.3.1 MATTERS ARISING- 4 APRIL 2017 COMMITTEE MEETING

40.5 Management Report – Maths Centre Update

Recommend to the Governing Body the approval of the proposed additional costs of £108K for the Pilot Project for primary and secondary schools.

Action taken: Approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on 24 May 2017.

Mr D Kinnaird to arrange a demonstration of the Cube for the next Governing Body meeting.

Action taken: This demonstration did not take place due to a possible conflict of interest.

Retention: It was agreed to invite Head of Student Services to attend the next Committee meeting and update members on this matter.

Action taken: This item has now been scheduled to the October Committee meeting when the Retention Working Group will have been in operation for a longer period and a more detailed presentation on the work of Student Services will be provided.

Quality Assessment in HE - The Education Committee to consider and nominate a Governor to oversee Higher Education.

Action taken: To be discussed at Education Committee meeting on 6 June 2017.

The Vice Principal referred to recent correspondence from the DfE, Higher Education Policy and Finance Division, in relation to the Quality Review visit 2017-18. Members discussed the role of the governor for oversight of HE. Mr P Canavan offered his time and Mr B Quinn offered his time as reserve. The Chair thanked the members for their support.

41.3.1 MATTERS ARISING- 4 APRIL 2017, COMMITTEE MEETING

Continued:

A member requested that the UK Quality Code for HE and the HE Code for Governance be available to members on the Minute Pad

Action taken: Documents uploaded to Minutepad on 9 May 2017

41.4 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair had no further business to discuss.

41.5 MANAGEMENT REPORT – MRS S TRAYNOR, VICE PRINCIPAL, CURRICULUM & INFORMATION SERVICES

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

PAPER EC 41.5 Management Report

Report 1 – “Raising the Profile and Attainment Levels of Mathematics in the North West Region” Mr D Laverty

Report 2 – NWRC Work Based 3 Year Operational Plan 2017-2020

Report 3 – Academic Standards Committee Minutes – March 2017

➤ **TABLED TO MEMBERS**

NWRC Guide to Higher Level Apprenticeships

The Vice Principal highlighted the following items within her report;

The estimate for 2016/17 FLU continues to be in line with previous estimates with an overall delivery of 90%. Full time, Level 1 and below FLUS have increased on the same period last year by 1.5%. Full time, Levels 2 and 3 have both decreased on the same period last year, Level 2 by 1.9%, Level 3 by 1.4%.

In relation to part time Level 1 and below FLUs have increased on the same period last year by 5.8%. Level 2 and 3 have both decreased on the same period last year by 4.6% and 1.7% respectively.

There has been a drop per campus in applications and academic levels for 2017/18 compared with the same time last year, with the exception of an increase in WBL applications.

Discussions took place on the number of pupils/students in the region leaving to study in Belfast and GB rather than study locally.

AGREED ACTION: The Principal to gather any data if available on these statistics.

The Vice Principal updated members on the work of the Quality Enhancement Team in preparation for future ETI evaluations. A SER Training Schedule has been put in place for the delivery of SER workshops and SER clinics to academic staff. Academic staff will also introduce case conferences to deal with retention issues. A Quality Portal has been developed for ease of access to information for academic staff.

The Vice Principal continued her report with further good news that since semester 2 commenced; sixty new students have registered with the Maths Centre. There are currently nine tutors available and one student placement volunteer. The Vice Principal referred to the paper (EC 41.5) "Raising the Profile and Attainment Levels of Mathematics in the North West Region", prepared by Mr D Laverty. This paper has been shared with Post Primary School Principals across the three Area Learning Communities (ALC) that the College works with for comment.

The paper sets out the importance of mathematics in education and highlights why mathematics is critical for career progression, for student articulation from secondary to further and higher education and for career advancement in industry. It presents some of the key findings of major research and highlights the importance of mathematics within the NI Programme for Government. The paper also reports on the major challenges that exist for NI and the North West region.

The proposal is for the development of a North West Regional Strategy. It will require educational stakeholders from primary, secondary, FE and HE to work together.

WBL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2017-2020

The Work Based Learning Plan has now been finalised and contains agreed targets for improvement over the next three years.

AGREED ACTION: It was agreed to bring to the Committee data on the pathways that students have taken since completing the Higher Level Apprenticeship programmes.

The College has been successful in its re-tender for TFS ApprenticeshipsNI. A number of new areas were tendered for to further plans to refresh curriculum across the College.

A copy of the new prospectus on Higher Level Apprenticeships was tabled to members. There has been an increase on applications on the same period last year. An information evening will be held in the College on 7 June 2017 for employers. A workshop is planned by the DfE to be held in South West College later in the month. Further plans to develop HLA's in other areas is currently being explored.

The Heart of Worcestershire College are currently undertaking an independent TEL Health Check for the College. A report is expected mid July 2017. The outcomes of the report will be used to inform TEL plans for the new academic year and to help build upon the TEL Strategy.

A final review took place by representatives from NCUK. This was positive and a report is expected later in June 2017.

The Vice Principal was pleased to report that the NIPS contract with BMC and the College had been extended to August 2020. A celebratory event is planned to take place on 14 June 2017 where the contract will be signed by the Department of Justice representatives and the Principals of the two colleges.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE –Report 7

Members noted the Minutes of the Academic Standards Committee meeting of 27 March 2017.

The Chair thanked the Vice Principal for her report.

41.6 COLLEGE EXTERNAL SPORTS FACILITIES

The Principal reported that this item had initially been reported through the recent Finance & General Purposes Committee and it was agreed that future reporting come through this Committee.

The Principal has requested a report from the Sports Department who will present to the Committee in the next academic year.

41.7 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

41.8 AOB

There was no other business to discuss.

That being the end of business the Chair thanked everyone and brought the meeting to a close at 1705.

Date of Next Meeting: 24 October 2017

Rescheduled post meeting to 25 October 2017

Signed: _____ **Chair**

Mr M O’Kane

Date: 25 October 2017