
MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY FIRST MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2019, COMMENCING 1700

PRESENT:

Mr G Finnegan, Governing Body Chair
Mr P Canavan
Mrs R Dougherty
Dr N Hand
Mr E Kelly
Mr G Killeen
Mr P Laughlin
Mr A Magee
Mr L Murphy, Principal & Chief Executive
Mr S McGregor
Mr M O’Kane (until 18.45)
Mr B Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE;

Mrs D McElwee, Acting Vice Principal Curriculum & Information Services
Mrs K Duffy, Director of HR & Learner Services
Mr P McKeown, Director of Finance & Economic Engagement
Mrs L McGonigle, Boardroom Apprentice
Mrs E Doherty, Governance Secretary (from 1710)

PRESENTATION;

Ms B Harrison, Director of Further Education, DfE
Ms D Blaney, DfE

The Governing Body Chair welcomed Ms B Harrison and Ms D Blaney to the College. Ms Harrison brought members and attendees through a Power Point presentation on the most significant Departmental strategic and policy issues affecting the Sector and the wider economy. Members got the opportunity to present their questions on the key issues which the Colleges faces. The Governing Body Chair thanked Ms Harrison and Ms Blaney for visiting the College and meeting with the Governing Body.

Ms Harrison and Ms Blaney left the meeting at this juncture.

71.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr M O’Neill and Mr S Gillespie.

71.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no conflicts of interests or any other business declared.

71.3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2019**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Draft Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting held on 12 March 2019

The Draft Minutes were taken as read and agreed were an accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED; Mr A Magee

SECONDED; Mr P Laughlin

71.3.1 MATTERS ARISING – Governing Body Meeting held on 12 March 2019

70.5 The Principal to share the Sector paper with the Education Committee.

Update; Draft Paper discussed at the Education Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019. The Principal added this matter is ongoing.

70.8 Pay Award

Update: The Governing Body Chair referred to the recent encouraging communication sent to all Lecturing Staff in the College regarding ongoing work on pay and working conditions across the sector.

70.9 The Director of HR & Learner Services to provide information on the existing Health & Wellbeing Programme for staff

Update: Report included in papers (71.3.1).

Members to forward their comments/questions they would like raised with the Director of FE on her visit to the College in May.

Update: Actioned

The Governing Body Chair then invited Mr O’Kane, Committee Chair of the Education Committee to update members on the recent business of the Committee.

71.4 EDUCATION COMMITTEE**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Report 1 Chair’s Summary Report

Report 2 Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2019

The Draft Committee Minutes were taken as read and agreed were an accurate record of the meeting. Members agreed to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019.

PROPOSED; Mr M O’Kane

SECONDED; Mr A Magee

Mr O’Kane reported that Ms G Moss, Head of Learner Services provided a presentation to the Committee on the work of the Learning and Teaching Development Team and also the work taking place within Learner Services. Of particular mention was the Careers Academy receiving a prestigious national education award, the Association of Colleges’ Beacon Award which recognises the best and most innovative practice among UK FE Colleges.

An update was provided on the Sector Position Paper on Higher Education in Further Education which has now been submitted to the Department which includes a set of guiding principles that should be used as a basis for a new policy for HE in FE.

Mr O’Kane added that in relation to target enrolments the College had achieved 88% of its target to date. Actions to increase enrolments are being taken and enrolment figures are projected to come in at 93% of target for the year by the end of June 2019. The Committee Chair reported he had attended the feedback session on the ETI inspection of Wood Occupations that took place on 29/30 April 2019. At the feedback meeting it was reported that significant improvements on student retention and the supports available to students with additional needs. The Committee also acknowledged Mrs S Traynor for her work and commitment she had shown during her time as Acting Vice Principal, Curriculum & Information Services.

The Governing Body Chair added he wished to extend his thanks on behalf of the Board to Mrs Traynor and to welcome Mr D McElwee who was taking over the position as Acting VP Curriculum & Information Services. The Governing Body Chair also wished to acknowledge the receipt of the Beacon Award which he stated was an outstanding accolade for the College.

AGREED ACTION; It was agreed to acknowledge and thank the Careers Academy Team on receipt of the Association of Colleges’ Beacon Award.

The Governing Body Chair thanked for Mr O’Kane and invited Mrs R Dougherty, Vice Chair of the Staffing Committee to report on the recent business of the Staffing Committee meeting.

71.5 STAFFING COMMITTEE

➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS

Report 1	Chair’s Summary Report
Report 2	Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2019

The Draft Committee Minutes were taken as read and agreed were an accurate record of the meeting. Members agreed to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 8 April 2019.

PROPOSED: Mrs R Dougherty

SECONDED: Dr N Hand

Mrs Dougherty reported that the recent Committee discussed appraisals in the Science Technology & Creative Industries Department. A request for an action plan has been made to the Head of Department.

A significant increase in applications has been attributed to the online recruitment portal, mainly due to advertising on social media and the user-friendly application forms.

It was reported that data provided on Sickness Reports noted an increase in the absence level for non-academic staff and actions are ongoing to address this.

The College has proposed a partnership with the Foyle Hospice to address hardship within the community and across the student body.

The Governing Body Chair thanked Mrs Dougherty and invited Mr Murphy, Principal and Chief Executive to report to the Board.

71.6 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT/BUSINESS**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Report 1 Draft College Development Plan 2019-20

The Principal wished to take the opportunity to thank Staff Governor, Mr A Magee and the Estates Team for their professional input in re-modelling the boardroom.

The Principal then referred to the Draft College Development Plan 2019-20 which was part of the recent bilateral discussions with the Department. The College has been requested by the Department to submit an additional delivery plan to include proposals if the College does/does not receive additional funding for pay pressures. The Director of Finance & Economic Engagement highlighted some of the challenges with the current budget, including the funding of the pay rise/increments; the increase in the employer contribution rate for the teachers' pension scheme; the increase in the NILGOSC annual pension increase; and the reduction on the MaSN.

The Governing Body Chair stated discussions will continue when the College Chairs meet with the Permanent Secretary.

Mr Martin O'Kane left the meeting during the above item.

The Governing Body Chair thanked the Principal for his report.

71.7 GOVERNING BODY CHAIR'S BUSINESS**➤ VERBAL REPORTS**

Report 1 Appointments & Extensions
Report 2 Boardroom Apprenticeship Programme

The Governing Body Chair stated that the Director of FE had already provided an update in relation to Board appointments and extensions.

The Governing Body Chair stated that the Board will be participating in the Boardroom Apprenticeship Programme for 2019-20. He wished to thank the current apprentice, Mrs McGonigle and also to Mrs Taggart who undertakes the role of apprentice board buddy.

71.8 SCHEDULE OF GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS 2019-2020**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Report 1 Schedule of Governing Body Meetings 2019-2020

Members noted the Schedule of meetings.

71.9 CORRESPONDENCE**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Report 1	Charitable Status (DfE)
Report 2	DfE Annual Provider Review 2018-19 outcomes
Report 3	Governance documents

The Governing Body Chair stated the item on charitable status had been discussed earlier with the Director of FE.

The DfE Annual Provider Review 2018-19 correspondence confirmed that the College meets the requirements for quality and standards in HE provision.

The Governing Body Chair referred to the request that was sent to the Department following the January 2019 Governing Body meeting in relation to the Governance documents. The Department had replied to this correspondence and suggested that the College consider seeking a Sector position. The Governing Body Chair stated this item may be considered again at a later date.

71.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

70.13 RESERVED BUSINESS

Taken separately.

The Governing Body Chair brought this part of the meeting to an end, he thanked everyone for their attendance and requested those not required for the remaining item to leave the room at this juncture.

Members/attendees: Mr A Magee, Mr E Kelly, Mr S McGregor, Mr P Canavan, Mrs K Duffy, Mrs D McElwee and Mr P McKeown left the room.

The meeting ended at 1904 and went into private session.

Date of next meeting: 25 June 2019

Signed: _____ **Chair**
Mr G Finnegan

Date: 25 June 2019