

SANDWELL COLLEGE

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors
held on Thursday 16th April 2015,
in Room 6F/39, at Central Campus,
commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Present:- Mr. J. Tew (Independent) (in the Chair)
Mr. M. Bailey (Independent)
Mr. M. Beardsmore (Independent)
Mrs. A. Brook (Independent)
Mr. J. Elsmore (Independent)
Mr. N. Johal (Independent) (part of meeting)
Mr. R. Nugent (Independent)
Mrs. C. Parker (Independent)
Mr. G. Pennington (Principal)
Ms. L. Pitsillides (Staff)
Mr. M. J. Uddin (Independent)

Also in Attendance:-

Miss J. Berry Corporation Secretary
Mr. D. Hawkins Executive Director for Finance and Resources
Mr. D. Holden Vice-Principal

B15.25 Declarations of Interest B15.25

There were no declarations of interest.

B15.26 Apologies B15.26

Apologies were received from Ms. Bushell, Mrs. Hurst and Messrs. Britton, Javid, Sadler and Scott.

B15.27 Partnership with Future Skills and Sandwell Adult Education B15.27

The Vice-Principal informed members of discussions that had taken place with Sandwell Local Authority regarding potential partnership arrangements in relation to Future Skills and Sandwell Adult Education.

The current structure of Future Skills and Sandwell Adult Education were outlined, together with the apprenticeship and adult provision they and the College currently offered. The challenges faced by both the College and the Local Authority particularly in relation to funding and competition were highlighted.

The Board of Governors considered a number of options for ways in which the College and the Local Authority could work together to improve and grow apprenticeships and adult provision for the benefit of the Borough. The advantages, disadvantages, financial implications and risks of each option were discussed.

Members noted that under the proposed arrangements the College would contract with the Skills Funding Agency to fund the provision, however, the Local Authority would retain responsibility for other existing elements of Future Skills and Adult Education. The benefits of this arrangement were explained.

Mr. Johal joined the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the quality of provision, possible implications in relation to OfSTED inspections; staffing and physical resources. During the discussion it was confirmed that a due diligence exercise would be undertaken.

The Principal informed members of his views with regard to the proposals and reminded members of the College's strategy for growth in learner numbers.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Board of Governors agree that option 3 was its preferred option in relation to the proposed partnership with Future Skills and Sandwell Adult Education.
- b) that the Principal be authorised to enter into formal discussions/ negotiations with Sandwell Local Authority regarding the proposed options.
- c) that, if appropriate, following discussions with Sandwell Local Authority, the Principal be authorised to produce a detailed proposal for approval by the Board of Governors.
- d) that the report be received and noted.

B15.28 Determination of Confidential Items

B15.28

Members agreed that the minutes of this meeting of the Board of Governors were confidential.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of this meeting of the Board of Governors were confidential.

B15.29 Date of Next Meeting

B15.29

The next meeting of the Board of Governors was planned to take place on Monday 11th May 2015, commencing at 5.30 p.m., at Central Campus.

The meeting terminated at 3.10 p.m.