

SANDWELL COLLEGE

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Search Committee
held on Monday 13th July 2015,
in room 6F/39 at the Central Campus,
commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Present:- Mr. J. Tew (Independent) (in the Chair)
Mr. G. Pennington (Principal)
Mr. R. Nugent (Independent)

Also in Attendance:-

Miss J. Berry Corporation Secretary

S15.36 Declarations of Interest S15.36

There were no declarations of interest.

S15.37 Apologies S15.37

Apologies were received from Mrs. Parker and Mr. Britton.

S15.38 Applications for Membership of the Board of Governors S15.38

The meeting had been convened in order for the Committee to meet with three applicants for membership of the Board of Governors. Initial discussions regarding the three applications had taken place at the meeting of the Search Committee held on Monday 6th July 2015.

The Committee was aware that each of the applicants had had an informal meeting with the Principal and Corporation Secretary regarding their applications and their interest in the College. Prior to each meeting with the applicants members considered the questions they would ask them.

At the beginning of the meetings with each applicant the Chairman informed them that the College was an independent further education corporation funded primarily by the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency. Each applicant was informed of the composition of the Board of Governors, its responsibilities and committee structure. The number of meetings planned each year was outlined, together with the Annual Strategy, Policy and Discussion Forum.

The requirement for new members to undertake induction and training was highlighted, together with the audit and inspection regimes that were undertaken in colleges and the outcome of the College's May 2014 OfSTED Inspection. Applicants were also informed of the link activities/curriculum visits that had been introduced for members. The main strands of the College's strategy for moving forward were outlined together with its financial position. The strategic role of the Board of Governors was emphasised.

At the conclusion of each meeting applicants were informed that recommendations arising from this meeting of the Committee would be considered by the Board of Governors at a meeting to be held later in the day.

i) Meeting with Applicant 15/08

RJC was invited to join the meeting and was introduced to members.

RJC responded to a number of questions including her reasons for applying to become a member of the Board of Governors, her experience of governance, and the role she undertook with her employer in relation to community engagement, customer service

and developing work experience opportunities. RJC outlined her views on improving life experiences for students, the need for businesses and educational organisations to work together and the importance of ensuring students had employability skills.

A discussion took place regarding the regeneration of West Bromwich, the importance of business development and the area's links with Birmingham.

In response to further questions, RJC confirmed her belief that she did not have any conflicts of interest with the College and the time commitment required to undertake the role of Governor was acceptable.

The Chairman thanked RJC for attending the meeting and her interest in the College. RJC left the meeting.

Members discussed RJC's application and the discussions they had had with her. Members agreed that they would finalise their recommendations to the Board of Governors at the conclusion of their meetings with applicants.

ii) Meeting with Applicant 15/10

KE was invited to join the meeting and was introduced to members.

KE informed members of his background in the schools sector, his links with the local authority, the roles he was currently undertaking at a school for high needs students and his experience of school governance over a number of years. KE explained his interest in making a difference to the lives of young people, raising their expectations and giving them confidence and self-belief.

A discussion took place regarding the Government's English and maths initiative, changes to GCSEs, vocational learning, employability skills, and the importance of effective careers advice and guidance.

KE confirmed his belief that he did not have any conflicts of interest with the College and he confirmed that the dates of meetings for 2015/16 were convenient to him.

A further discussion took place regarding the College's estate, its competitors, barriers to learning and success rates.

The Chairman thanked KE for attending the meeting and his interest in the College. KE left the meeting.

The meeting adjourned for half-an-hour.

iii) Meeting with Applicant 15/07

ND was invited to join the meeting. The Chairman introduced members and explained the role of Search Committee.

A discussion took place regarding views on the planned 'Combined Authority', the number of College students that lived in Birmingham and the need for increased manufacturing. A discussion also took place regarding the strategies and policies implemented by the Government since the General Election.

ND explained the work he undertook with young people and apprentices in the creative skills sector, together with his experience as a governor of a multi-trust academy. A discussion ensued regarding funding mechanisms, particularly with regard to the employer funding levy for apprenticeships. A discussion also took place regarding the qualifications system, vocational versus academic education and training, examining boards, links with employers and the development of specialisms.

In response to a query, ND confirmed his belief that he did not have any conflicts of interest with the College and did not foresee any difficulties with the time commitment required to be a governor.

The Chairman thanked ND for attending the meeting and his comprehensive application. ND left the meeting.

S15.39 Deliberations and Recommendations to the Board of Governors

S15.39

The Committee then considered the three applications for membership and the discussions that had taken place with the applicants. Members agreed that the three applicants should be recommended to the Board of Governors for appointment as Independent Members, for terms of office of three years commencing 1st August 2015 and ceasing on 31st July 2018.

Discussions regarding appointments to the Board of Governors committees would take place at October meeting of the Search Committee.

RESOLVED:

a) that the Search Committee recommend to the Board of Governors:-

- i) that applicant 15/08 be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Board of Governors for a term of office of three years commencing 1st August 2015 and ceasing on 31st July 2018**
- ii) that applicant 15/10 be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Board of Governors for a term of office of three years commencing 1st August 2015 and ceasing on 31st July 2018**
- iii) that applicant 15/07 be appointed to serve as an Independent Member on the Board of Governors for a term of office of three years commencing 1st August 2015 and ceasing on 31st July 2018**

b) that the Search Committee consider appointments to the Board of Governors committees at its meeting in October 2015.

S15.40 Determination of Confidential Items

S15.40

The Search Committee agreed that none of its discussions should be minuted confidentially.

RESOLVED: that none of the Committee's discussions be minuted confidentially.

S15.41 Date of Next Meeting

S15.41

The next meeting of the Search Committee was scheduled to take place on Monday 5th October 2015, commencing at 3.30 p.m., at Central Campus. It was intended to postpone this meeting to Monday 12th October 2015, subject to members' availability.

The meeting terminated at 4.51 p.m.