

SANDWELL COLLEGE

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors
held on Monday 7th September 2015,
in Room 5F/43, at Central Campus,
commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-	Mr. J. Tew	(Independent)	(in the Chair)
	Mr. J. Britton	(Independent)	
	Mr. K. Ellis	(Independent)	
	Mr. J. Elsmore	(Independent)	(part of meeting)
	Mrs. T. Hurst	(Independent)	
	Ms. R. Jenkins-Crutchley	(Independent)	
	Mrs. C. Parker	(Independent)	
	Mrs. L. Pitsillides	(Staff)	
	Mr. G. Pennington	(Principal)	
	Mr. M. Smith	(Staff)	
	Mr. M. J. Uddin	(Independent)	

Also in Attendance:-

Miss J. Berry	Corporation Secretary
Mr. D. Hawkins	Executive Director for Finance and Resources

B15.77 Welcome B15.77

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Jenkins-Crutchley and Messrs. Ellis and Smith to their first meeting of the Board of Governors and explained the purpose for this special meeting.

B15.78 Declarations of Interest B15.78

There were no declarations of interest.

B15.79 Apologies B15.79

Apologies were received from Mrs. Brook and Messrs Javid, Johal and Scott.

B15.80 Financial Year 2015/16
College Budget 2015/16 and Three Year Financial Forecast B15.80

The Chairman reminded members that at the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Monday 13th July 2015 the budget for 2015/16 and the three year financial plan had been considered and approved, however, following that meeting, the College had been notified of a reduction in adult skills funding.

Mr. Elsmore joined the meeting.

As a result of the reduction in funding the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) had agreed that colleges could re-submit their three year financial plans by the end of September 2015. The Principal explained that the College had therefore undertaken a review of its financial plan.

For the benefit of new members the Executive Director for Finance and Resources explained the College's budget setting process.

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources explained the changes that had been made to the original three year financial plan and the resulting year-end forecasts.

The Chairman informed members that the Principal had written to the SFA regarding the funding cuts for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision. The Principal outlined the response received, together with the impact the funding cut might have on the College and the local community.

The Principal outlined the potential impact of the funding cuts on colleges within the sector and the introduction of Area Reviews of post 16 education and training organisations.

Members were pleased to be informed of the student enrolment figures for 2015/16 compared to target. In response to a query, members were reminded of lagged funding and the impact this had on colleges.

Members were also pleased to note that the College's financial health score had increased to 'good'. The factors that determined the financial health score were explained and members were informed that 'good' would relate to the financial year-end position for 2014/15. The budget for 2015/16 was considered challenging but achievable passed on current funding rules.

In response to a number of queries, the Executive Director for Finance and Resources explained matters relating to ESF provision, catering and Future Skills income.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Board of Governors approve the College Budget 2015/16 and the three year financial plan 2015/16 to 2017/18.
- b) that the report be received and noted.

B15.81 Verbal Update on Sector Developments

B15.81

The Chairman informed members that a number of developments had taken place in the FE sector during the summer months.

A discussion took place regarding the Area Reviews of post 16 education and training organisations. The Chairman outlined the aims of the reviews and the Principal explained the potential impact and implications for colleges and the sector. The Principal also outlined discussions that had taken place between the Black Country colleges. Members agreed that the Chairman should be involved in future meetings with Black Country colleges, when this was appropriate. Members would be kept up-to-date at future meetings of the Board of Governors.

Members noted that an Area Review had commenced in Birmingham.

The Principal informed members of the College's 'A' level results and success rates. Members asked that their congratulations to the students, the Principal, staff, managers and all those involved in 'A' level provision be placed on record.

A discussion took place regarding plans for the Combined Authority and its view of skills needs, together with further potential funding cuts particularly with regard to adult provision.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Board of Governors note the developments outlined by the Chairman and Principal.

- b) that the Board of Governors support the Chairman being included in meetings with the Black Country colleges, when this was considered appropriate.
- c) that the Board of Governors congratulate the students, Principal, staff, managers and all those involved in 'A' level provision on the 2014/15 'A' level results.
- d) that the verbal report be received.

B15.82 Determination of Confidential Items

B15.82

Members were asked to confirm which of its discussions should be minuted confidentially. It was agreed that the Chairman should determine confidential minutes once they had been drafted.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman determine discussion that should be minuted confidentially once the draft minutes had been produced.

B15.83 Date of Next Meeting

B15.83

The next meeting of the Board of Governors was planned to take place on Monday 19th October 2015, commencing at 5.30 p.m., at Central Campus.

The meeting terminated at 6.55 p.m.