

Minutes of Full Board Training, Development and Strategy

Date: 23rd May 2024

Time: 4.30 - 5.55 pm

Location: S10, Itchen College

Present:

Mr R Parke	Mr B Jones (Chair)
Mr A Scott (Principal)	Mr C Breckenridge
Mr T Grant	Dr C Carpenter
Mr M McCauley	Mr D Batten
Ms S Garner	Mrs S Hammett
Mr M Brown	
Mrs L Court (online via Teams)	

In attendance:

Miss F McIntyre (Clerk)	Mrs R Stratton
Ms C Froggatt	Mrs E Barrett
Mr M Jones	

Apologies:

Miss S Duggan	Mrs M Harris-Bridge
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Absent:

Mrs D House	Mr D Holloway
Ms M Lico	Mr E Unuigbo
Mr B Tyers	Mr T Grant

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted as above.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 None in addition to those previously declared.

3. Minutes of the last meetings

- 3.1 5.1.8 request rewording - to majority 50-59
Out of city - change to students moving out of city
- 3.2 Minutes approved.

4. Chair's Update

- 4.1 The chair updated governors on the following items:
- Building works have started on the new build with preparatory works.
 - Exams are underway in College

- Enrollment for September looks high
- Emma Barrett has returned to College and was welcomed back.
- Ofsted is likely in Autumn term.
- Due to the General Election on the 4th July the next Full Board meeting will be moved.
- The Governance review is nearing completion and Governors thanked for their time engaging with the process.

5. Update on Local Skills Improvement Plan

5.1 Claire Froggart - Programme Director Local Skills Improvement Plan was welcomed to the meeting and presented to governors. Presentation on TG.

5.2 Questions after presentation:

Q: Mentioned the additional areas in terms of maritime, creative and digital. These tend to be small businesses who do not engage with the Chamber of Commerce.

How will you overcome this?

A: Happens across all sectors as well as creative. Hampshire Chamber of Commerce chairs a creative group so has contact with a group of employers. It is responding to needs as wide and varied.

Q: Are universities involved?

A: LSIP is framed in post 19 FE but does have conversations with local universities.

Q: Mentioned related work to be done pulling out common threads of LSIPs. Is this on the horizon?

A: Working locally trying to engage employers would not usually get to.

Q: What fund is meeting LSIP priorities?

A: Multiplier, skills bootcamp and LSIF. In practice short term funding as the project moves on and involves some quick wins but will not change the system.

Q: Priority 5, not getting into schools. What are barriers?

A: Varied but there are pockets of good practice and examples of maritime given where they visit schools and careers events.

5.3 Discussion on future on LSIPs with uncertain political times. The LSIPs are statutory and would require a change of law to change. What it is called or the focus may change. There is a need to grow the economy and ensure young people are ready for work.

CF thanked for her time and presentation.

6. Annual Accountability Statement

6.1 Circulated to governors prior to the meeting. Last year produced the College's first annual statement and it should respond to the LSIP.

The new report has the following amendments:

- Duty to review and the statement toward the end covers this. In February the governors looked at the curriculum in terms of context meeting the needs of the local community. The statement now references this.
- Targets have been updated and new ones established. Sits with SEF and QIP and shows improvements. Good reflection of the work of College and the priorities set. Uniquely positioned to respond to LSIP to meet lower skills need and entry back into employment.

6.2 Comment: it is a helpful document and concise.

6.3 Questions and discussions:

Q: In terms of T levels how are these developing?

A: The DfE may be given different priorities with a change of government. Currently T levels have higher levels of funding with other courses being defunded. Labour have stated they will pause the defunding. T levels are good qualifications but not always as good as the courses they replace. There is space for all of them to offer the right qualifications for students and employers.

Q: Will there be an issue with having right staffing?

A: Picked T level courses similar to current curriculum base so can staff new courses.

Q: Are employers aware of T levels?

A: Not really and it is a leap of faith for students and parents to sign on for new courses. There is work to be done to communicate the courses more widely.

Q: How are current T level students getting on?

A: There are ten on early years course and generally positive. Achievement rate is not as high.

Comment: The secondary sector does not understand T levels. Btecs were good options for some students and closing. Students find it confusing.

Q: Would better understanding bring in more students?

A: Yes could do

Likely to have more students in future that are in College for three years.

Q: The College has a strong inclusive reputation and growth is important. Are we confident can still meet the needs of students who require additional support?

A: Yes. There is growth in high needs numbers also. All have specific needs but also funding to support.

Was also discussed in depth at G&E with details on the addition support provided by College.

Comment: Very useful document that provides context to the inter relating plans in place.

6.4 **Vote: approved.**

7. Risk Register

- 7.1 There was a recommendation from internal auditors that all governors have sight and awareness of the risk register and the process. Audit examines the document in detail at every meeting and there is an accompanying document that highlights any changes.
- 7.2 Audit committee received reports from external auditors who deal with finances. The internal auditors are asked to look at specific areas and topics such as HR, IT or building projects. They will highlight items that could be added to the risk register. SLT reviews the register regularly and discusses items which can then be up or down graded. Mitigating factors are also considered.
- 7.3 *Q: After the SLT review how does this come to Audit?*
A: It is managed by SC. Also provides a document of changes.

8 Governor Update

- 8.1 Received funding via DfE for governor recruitment which was undertaken by Peridot. There was funding for two additional governors but have been able to appoint three with no cost. The new governors will be ratified by the S&G committee.
- 8.2 The July full board meeting will be a different format and allow for governor interaction. Governors asked for feedback after.
- 8.3 *Q: Discussed rotating committee chairs and succession planning. With Ofsted looming need to consider this?*
A: Want to ensure good succession planning is in place but possibly do not want to make changes currently. Governors all asked to consider the committees they are on and if they would like to move.

9 Impact and Action Review

- 9.1 Impact:
- Improved understanding of LSIP with good input
 - Links between LSIP and accountability statement clearer
 - Good discussion on LSIP
 - Risk register clarity
- 9.2 Actions:
- Governors to consider what committee they wish to sit on next academic year

10 AOB

- 10.1 None