

Priestley College

Minutes of the Governance & Search Committee meeting
held at 8.00am on Tuesday 23 June 2015
in the Principal's Office

PRESENT Mr J Monaghan Chair
Mr J A Farquharson
Mr R Haslam

Mr P McMellon Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Dyke, Mr M W Grant and Mrs D Stead.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Member declared any personal interest in any item.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 May 2015 were accepted as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Preparation for Inspection

Following the release of the new Framework for Inspection and Ofsted Handbook, it was noted that an update on the changes, and on the implications therein for the College, would be provided in due course.

5. NEW CODE OF GOVERNANCE

The College had adopted the new Code (minus Section 9.29 on limitations) on 14 May 2015. The Committee discussed reports on decisions elsewhere in the sector and on compliance issues which were already beginning to emerge.

Mr R Haslam reported on the problems encountered by participants in the AoC's webinar on the new Code. He also advised that the SFCA's disinclination to give unqualified endorsement of the new Code lay, in part, in the Code's incompatibility with the Instrument and Articles of many denominational sixth form colleges.

6. GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

(i) Progress in recruiting new Governors/Co-opteds

There had been no further progress in the identification of potential candidates for recruitment, with a decision on the individual (LS) previously discussed awaiting clarification of that person's availability in September 2015. However, a request for consideration from a different individual (DC) was discussed and it was agreed that, pending the outcome of ongoing considerations potentially affecting DC's eligibility, a decision on the matter should be deferred.

(ii) Term of Office Expiry – Mr Andrew Cannell

The Committee noted that Mr Cannell, whose initial term of office expires on 31 July 2015, had indicated his preparedness to continue as a Governor for a second term of office if invited to do so. The Committee reflected on Mr Cannell's contribution to the governance of the College, including his chairing of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Other options were also considered. However, the Committee unanimously concluded that it would be in the interest of the College and community for Mr Cannell to be re-appointed for a further four-year term of office.

RESOLVED : That the Governing Body is recommended to re-appoint Mr Andrew Cannell for a further four-year term of office, from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019.

(iii) Term of Office Expiry – Mrs Beverley Scott-Herron

Mrs Scott-Herron had been appointed initially for a single year term of office (expiring on 31 July 2015). The Committee reflected on the position and, mindful of the productive links between the College and Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School (where Mrs Scott-Herron is Head Teacher), it was agreed that appointment for a further term of office should be offered to Mrs Scott-Herron.

RESOLVED : That the Governing Body is recommended to re-appoint Mrs Beverley Scott-Herron for a four-year term of office, from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019.

(iv) Co-opted Members – Annual Review

It was agreed that, based on their contributions and effectiveness in 2014/15, the re-appointment for 2015/16 of the four current Co-opted Members should be recommended to the Governing Body.

RESOLVED : That the Governing Body is recommended to re-appoint Mr T Date, Dr M Hartill, Mr L Horrigan and Mr Y Shaikh as Co-opted Members for 2015/16.

7. SKILLS AUDIT

The Committee noted that a full Skills Audit had been conducted in Autumn 2014, with the results of that analysis now used by the Committee. It was agreed that, in these circumstances, there was no need for a further update in the forthcoming academic year.

8. GOVERNANCE SELF-ASSESSMENT

(i) Comparison of Priestley College with other colleges

The Committee examined the analysis of responses for the six local colleges (including Priestley College) which had participated in the peer review exercise based on individual governor questionnaire responses.

(ii) Use of common questionnaire for Summer 2015

It was agreed that the same 'common questionnaire' should be recommended for use again in Summer 2015 so as to allow further peer comparison in due course. There was, however, some concern and disappointment that the level of questionnaire completion had been relatively low. Thus, it was agreed that completion of the questionnaire should be accommodated in the Governing Body meeting schedule (Autumn Term), thereby affording individual Governors more support in the completion process.

RESOLVED : That the Governing Body is recommended to approve use of the 'common pro-forma' as introduced and used by other colleges in the North-West.

9. COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP – ADVICE FOR GOVERNING BODY

The Committee reviewed the performance during 2014/15 of the current Committees. It was agreed that the governing Body should be recommended to retain the same memberships for a further year, but that, assuming her re-appointment is accepted, Mrs B Scott-Herron should be offered a place on the Curriculum & Standards Committee.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting is Thursday, 24 September 2015 (8.00am).

PMcMellon
23 June 2015

Accepted as accurate and signed by the Chair

Signature

Date