

Central Sussex College

Minutes of a meeting of the Board held on 22nd September 2014

Present: Clive Behagg, Rachel Booles, Anahita Henry, Chris Maidment (Chair), Patrick McHale, Clive Nicholas, Ryan Sallows David Scott, Ramesh Shingadia, Sarah Wright.

In Attendance: Roger Crossley (Clerk), Andy Forbes and Kim Morton.

Prior to the meeting, members toured the Library facilities in the County Library opposite the Crawley campus (on the corner of Hazlett Avenue and Southgate Avenue) and the refurbished student spaces at the Crawley campus.

Chris Maidment opened the meeting at 5:45 pm.

2014-15/1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from James Sarmecanic.

2014-15/2 Declarations of Interest

Clive Behagg declared an interest.

2014-15/3 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2014

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the last meeting of the Board. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

2014-15/4 Schedule of decisions

David Scott reported that the telephone conference between Members of the Audit Committee had been held and that, following discussion, members of the Committee had approved the External Audit Planning Memorandum under delegated powers (minute 2013-14/60 refers).

Members noted the schedule.

2014-15/5 Report on achievement and recruitment.

Sarah Wright outlined the data for achievement which had been confirmed to date. She told Members that the results for 'A' levels showed a 1.8% improvement (overall success rate 95.8%) but that there had been a fall in achievement of 'AS' levels due to less than satisfactory results in four subjects. These have been withdrawn from the offer for 2014-15.

Sarah told Members that results for vocational qualifications had not yet been received but would be processed in time for the submission of the ILR on 20th October. A report will be given to the Board meeting scheduled for that day.

Following extended discussion, Members noted the report

2014-15/6 **Appointment of a Clerk.**

Roger Crossley left the meeting

Minute 2014-15/6 redacted

Roger Crossley re-joined the meeting

2014-15/7 **Self-assessment of Governance**

Chris Maidment introduced the circulated papers. Members agreed to work as a whole group rather than split into committees etc to undertake the self-assessment and to use the KPIs for governance provided by the Clerk.

Members worked through the KPIs and agreed how the Board had performed against each. The results of this discussion are set out in the attached report.

Members discussed the grade which should be attached to governance. Clive Behagg proposed that governance was at that time 'good' in the context of the changes to the Board and the steep learning curve for new Members. He cited the much increased level of challenge to proposals by the Executive by Members, the requirement by the Standards Committee that greater rigour should be seen in the Quality Improvement Plan attached to the whole-college self-assessment review, the improved attendance by new Members and the higher level of debate. However, he said, there was still room for improvement given the relatively short time many Members had been in office and further improvement would occur as new Members gathered information about the college and the sector. Any need for improvement should be seen in that context but, in this context, it was not possible to say that governance was outstanding.

Clive proposed the Board should self-assess governance as grade 2 'good' but with a context statement setting out the distance travelled during the 2014. This was agreed and the Principal and Clerk was asked to write this context statement as a preface to the report.

2014-15/8 **Confidential Business.**

The Clerk advised that there were no matters to be kept confidential. This was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

signed Chris Maidment (Chair) Date