

## **Northern Regional College**

### **Governing Body**

**Minutes of the Governing Body meeting held on 24 April 2024 in Farm Lodge commencing at 5.00pm.**

**Present:** Mr K Nelson (Chair), Mrs L Crilly, Mr B Devlin, Mr T Dornan, Dr P Graham, Ms J Hemphill, Mr M Higgins, Mr D MacAuley, Mrs P Martin, Mrs C McGovern (on Teams), Ms D McIlwaine, Mr R McKernan (on Teams), Mr I Murphy, Mr B Patterson, Mr S Shevlin, Mr D Small, Mrs J Taggart

**In Attendance:** Mr S Lavery, Ms J Small

Mrs K Wallace, Secretary

#### **121.1 Apologies**

Mrs Brown and Mr McAllister.

The Chair extended congratulations and best wishes to Mrs McGovern on her forthcoming event.

#### **121.2 Declaration of Interests**

None.

#### **121.3 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2024 were approved.

Proposed: Dr Graham                      Seconded: Ms Hemphill

#### **121.4 Matters Arising**

The Director of Further Education will be invited to the GB meeting on 19 June 2024.

A copy of the Raising Concerns log was emailed to members on 21 March 2024.

#### **121.5 Chair's Communication/ Correspondence**

The Chair reported ongoing discussion with CEF but noted that the meeting on 19 April 2024 had been cancelled.

He reminded members that assessment meetings would be starting soon and he would attend final Committee meetings in the current year in advance of same.

5.09pm Mrs Crilly joined the meeting and was congratulated by the Chair on her recent appointment as Departmental Solicitor and Head of Legal Services.

The Principal spoke to the presentation on campus visits and summarised the key topics

raised as pay, T&Cs, and VSS, which would be discussed in further detail under reserved business. Members noted that senior managers would meet with staff in May to go through the presentation, following which the Pulse survey and a survey on culture would be undertaken with results to be considered by the Resources Committee.

The Chair thanked the Principal on behalf of the GB, for the work carried out by him on pay negotiations. He stated that issues raised were currently being worked through and would be reported back on.

The Principal advised that, in relation to lessons learnt from the negotiations, these are under development, and a meeting would be held with TUs in May to discuss same.

### **121.6 New Build Update**

Members considered the report provided. Mr Lavery summarised key points in relation to the College new build programme including the Causeway Campus handover date, opening on track for September 2024; conclusion of the Gateway 4 Review; approval of the business case addendum.

The Principal reported positive feedback from Gateway in relation to community, town centre and business engagement, and outlined work to encourage the local council to upgrade the link from the College campus to the town centre. Members felt it important to have College representation on the Town Centre Partnership.

The GB voiced their appreciation for the work carried out on this project and the excellent outcome of the Gateway Review.

### **121.7 Principal's Report**

The Principal's report was taken as read. Members particularly noted information on the CDP position and wind down of the previous Task & Finish Group; student achievements and information sessions; and confirmation on budget and allocations.

In relation to business engagement, Ms Small reported arrangements for monthly meetings; above target outturn for 2023/24, details of which would be taken to Resources Committee; and bid positions on a number of funding initiatives.

In response to members' questions the Principal summarised the Minister's priorities and focus and advised that announcements on budget were due on 25 April.

Mr Murphy emphasised growth of apprenticeships as a key area for the College and the Principal outlined the current programme and future plans for apprenticeships.

The report was noted.

### **121.8 Resources Committee**

The draft minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2024 were endorsed. Mr Murphy was encouraged by the end of year budget position and looked forward to receiving news on the budget for 2024/25.

### **121.9 Governance**

The GB were content to note updated changes to the Articles of Government, Guide for Governors, Circular 05/12 and changes to date on the Code of Conduct. Members would feedback suggestions for further changes to the Secretary.

**Action: Suggested changes to the Code of Conduct would be considered at the GB meeting on 19 June.**

### **121.10 Any Other Business**

The GB heard that this would be the last meeting Ms Small would attend before leaving the College. The Chair and members thanked her for her work and support and wished her all the best for the future.

### **121.11 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 19 June 2024 in the Coleraine campus.

The meeting ended at 5.50pm.

Mr K Nelson



Date 19 June 2024

Chair

Mrs K Wallace



Secretary