
MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE NORTHLAND BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2017, COMMENCING 2.55PM

PRESENT:

Mr G Finnegan, Governing Body Chair
 Mr M Agnew
 Mr P Canavan
 Mrs R Dougherty
 Dr N Hand
 Mr D Limb
 Mr A Magee
 Mr S McGregor
 Mr L Murphy, Principal & Chief Executive
 Mr M O’Kane
 Mr B Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr P McKeown, Director of Finance & Economic Engagement
 Mr D Kinnaird, Vice Principal Curriculum & Information Services
 Mrs É Doherty, Governance Secretary

54.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms S Curran, Mr G Killeen, Mr M Cooper, Mrs Kate Duffy, Mr P Laughlin and Mr S Atcheson

54.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AMENDMENTS TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper GB 54.2 Register of Interests – February 2017

There were no conflict of interest declarations. The Governing Body Chair reported he wished to speak on the potential scheduling of a Special Governing Body meeting and will take this under Any Other Business later into the meeting.

The Governing Body Chair indicated an updated Register of Interests was available with an amendment in respect to Mr Leo Murphy and an addition for new Governor, Dr Nigel Hand.

54.3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper GB 54.3 Draft Minutes of the Governing Body meeting held on 23 November 2016

The Minutes were taken as read and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED: Mr M Agnew

SECONDED: Mr R Dougherty

54.3.1 MATTERS ARISING; NOV 2016 MEETING**53.3.1 Chair’s Business**

It was agreed that the College not pursue the joint project with the Council and proceed with the Business Case.

Action Taken: The Director of Finance & Economic Engagement confirmed this was the position.

53.6 Education Committee

The Governing Body Chair to invite members to join the Working Group. A paper will be prepared for presentation at the Strategy Day on 3 February 2017.

Action Taken: The Governing Body Chair reported that this item was discussed at the Strategy Day for Governors and the Senior Management & Leadership Team, an action to invest in data as a strategic asset was agreed during that meeting.

54.4 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper GB 54.4,	Governor Self Assessments 2015/16
	Legislative Changes Removing Education Authority Nomination Rights – amendment to Instrument of Government
54.4.1	Letter from FE Corporate Governance & Accountability Branch, 30 November 2016
54.4.2	Letter from FE Corporate Governance & Accountability Branch, Annex 1, 8 December 2016
54.4.3	Instrument of Government with amendments

Governor Self Assessments

The Governing Body Chair referred members to the Governor Self Assessments 2015-16, Results report. In summary, comparing the percentage of respondents who agreed; the College achieved higher than the Sector in three of the five topics. In the remaining two topics the College achieved 96.4% under the 'Governing Body Committees' topic against a Sector average of 96.5%. Under Training & Induction, scoring was 86.4%, below the Sector average (89.7%).

The Governing Body Chair requested members to consider what the Governing Body can do to address the issue in relation to training on the College's operations and on relevant regularly/legislative developments. Members to contact the Secretary with their training requests.

In relation to Governing Body Procedures and Composition, the Governing Body Chair reported that the issue of discussion amongst members without management present has been addressed by the decision to carve out some time at each meeting to facilitate this. The Chairs and Principal groups will discuss the modalities around this. Proposals will come back on how we implement this arrangement.

The Governing Body Chair added the College was at the lower end of the Sector in attendance both at Governing Body and at Committee level meetings. Governing Body attendance for 2015/16 was at 73.3%, down slightly on attendance for 2014/15 (74.2%). Committee Attendance had also dropped in 2015/16 to 70.8% from 2014/15 (72%).

The Governing Body Chair proposed that Governors self-manage their attendance to 80% or above in relation to Governing Body and Committee meetings and this will be reviewed as part of the Governor Assessments at the end of the year. He added that this includes remote attendance via Skype or video /conference.

The Vice Principal agreed to ensure that the Meeting Rooms within the campuses are set up to facilitate Skype/video conference if required.
Removal of Education Authority Nominations

The Governing Body Chair reported that agreement was received from the NI Assembly to change the Further Education (NI Order 1997) to remove the requirement on the Department for the Economy to appoint individuals nominated by the Education Authority. (EA) He added existing appointees will continue to serve on their respective governing bodies until their current term of appointment ends. Future vacancies which will arise as a result of this legislative change will in future be filled through public appointment competitions. As a result of this legislative change it is necessary to amend the Instrument of Government for the Governing Body. In addition of this change (Annex 1) references to the Department of Employment & Learning were also amended to read 'Department for the Economy'.

Members were content to approve the changes to the Instrument of Government.

PROPOSED; Mr G Finnegan

SECONDED; Mr M Agnew

Membership of Committees

The Chair requested approval for the Student Governor to join the Education Committee.

PROPOSED; Mr B Quinn

SECONDED; Mrs R Dougherty

A member requested approval to serve on the Education Committee. It was agreed that the Board would request confirmation from the Department on eligibility around this.

Note – since the meeting further work on interpreting the Articles/Instrument is ongoing which may require this approval to be revisited.

The Chair also requested approval for Dr Nigel Hand to join the Audit & Risk Committee.

PROPOSED; Mr M Agnew

SECONDED; Mr S McGregor

New Year Honours List

The Principal wished to pass on congratulations to two former staff members who were included in the New Year Honours List, Mr Basil Dalton and Mrs Ann McGarrigle. Basil was recognised for his contribution to the creative industries and Ann was recognised for providing health and welfare services to students and for her charity work.

AGREED ACTION;

The Governing Body Chair on behalf of the Board to correspond with Basil and Ann congratulating them on their awards.

54.5 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

There was no business to discuss.

54.6 CORRESPONDENCE

The Governing Body Chair reported that there had been correspondence received since the last meeting in relation to an ongoing issue. This may result in input being required from Board members at a later stage therefore details were not disclosed.

54.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Governing Body Chair reported that there may be the requirement for the Governing Body to meet for a Special Governing Body meeting prior to the next scheduled GB meeting and should this be required, an invitation will be sent out in due course.

54.8 RESERVED BUSINESS

Recorded separately

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8 March 2017

The Chair wished to thank everyone for their time and closed this part of the meeting 15.20.

Mr D Limb, Mr A Magee, Mr P McKeown and Mr D Kinnaird left the meeting at this juncture. The meeting then went into private session.

SIGNED; _____ **Chair**
Mr G Finnegan

DATE; 8 March 2017