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**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT ROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2019, COMMENCING 1700**

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**PRESENT:**

Mr G Finnegan, Governing Body Chair  
Mr S Atcheson  
Mrs R Dougherty  
Dr N Hand  
Mr G Killeen  
Mr P Laughlin  
Mr L Murphy, Principal & Chief Executive  
Mrs L McGonigle (Board Apprentice)  
Mr S McGregor (from 1719)  
Dr M O'Neill  
Mr B Quinn  
Mrs L Taggart

**IN ATTENDANCE;**

Mrs E Doherty, Governance Secretary

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The Governing Body Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He wished to pass on the Board's condolences to Mr L Murphy on the recent bereavement of his mum and to others remembering the loss of a loved one. Members respectfully held a minute of silence.

**68.1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr S Gillespie, Mr A Magee and Mr M O'Kane.

**68.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Governing Body Chair reminded members that there was Reserved Business on the Agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared or no declarations of any other business.

**68.3 GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS****➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper SGB 68.3.1	Articles of Government
Paper SGB 38.3.2	Instrument of Government

The Governing Body Chair reported that following the Board's approval of the Articles and Instrument at the meeting held on 26 September 2018, the Department had now requested each College in the Sector to approve the same documents now with further minor corrections following scrutiny by the Department. These corrections to both documents were predominately presentational and grammatical in nature. The Governing Body Chair listed the corrections. The Department wished that no further changes are made at this time and the two amendments to the Articles that were proposed by the Board on 26 September 2018 to be reinserted.

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Once all Colleges in the Sector approve these governance documents the Department will continue their discussions with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI) to allow them to come to a view on whether the Sector can retain charitable status.

In relation to the two amendments that were proposed in September 2018, the Department have advised they are content to consider these at a later date and will engage its legal advisers to seek their opinion on these matters.

**Members discussed the matter and were content to approve the Articles of Government with the minor grammatical changes and without the two proposed amendments to the 26 September 2018 Articles document.**

**PROPOSED;** Mr S Atcheson

**SECONDED;** Dr N Hand

In relation to the Instrument of Government, other than the presentational and grammatical changes the document remains unchanged as approved by members at the 26 September 2018 Governing Body meeting.

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

**PROPOSED:** Mr B Quinn

**SECONDED:** Dr M O'Neill

A discussion ensued on the Instrument Document. It was agreed that a change would be proposed to the Department regarding staff members' attendance when matters relating to staff are being discussed.

**AGREED ACTION;**

**The Governing Body Secretary to refer this item to the Department.**

*Mr S McGregor arrived to the meeting during this item.*

#### **68.4 STRATEGY DAY**

The Governing Body Chair referred to the Strategy Day which will take place on 25 January 2019. It was hoped the Director of FE, DfE will attend to report on some of the most significant Departmental strategic and policy issues affecting the Sector and to allow Governors to share their views.

Other agenda items will include updates on College Development Plan, the Tribal Report – Value for Money Review of Further Education Colleges in N Ireland. The Governing Body Chair spoke briefly on the Report. The purpose of this review was to benchmark the 2016/17 performance of the services and functions provided in all six FE Colleges in comparison to FE Colleges in other UK regions in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The College performed better than the NI average in terms of financial performance.

However student retention rates and success rates subsequently were lower than average. The reported stated, 'There *does not appear to be a strong correlation between success rates and student deprivation*'. (1.3). Discussion followed in relation to this statement and the Governing Body Chair and members expressed their dissenting view on this statement.

Dr M O'Neill referred to a Research Paper, What Works? on student retention and success that might be of interest in continuing the discussion on this matter.

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The Governing Body Chair concluded that further discussion on the Report will take place on the Strategy Day,

**AGREED ACTION;**

**Dr M O'Neill to provide a copy of "What Works" Report to the Chair.**

**68.5 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to note on the main business of the meeting.

**68.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Governing Body Chair wished to take the opportunity to acknowledge Mr S Atcheson, Governor whose term of office was due to complete shortly. Mr Atcheson's professionalism, dedication and willingness to take on other pieces of work for the College has played an important role in the Committees he served on and as a Board member. The Committee Chair and members mirrored the Governing Body Chair's sentiments.

The Governing Body Chair also wished to thank Mr G Killeen who attended the recent Accountability meeting with the Department on his behalf.

The Governing Body Chair then requested that members not required for the remaining agenda items to leave the room at this juncture.

*Members: Mrs L Taggart and Mr S McGregor left the room.*

**68.7 RESERVED BUSINESS**

The meeting ended at 1800 and went into private session.

**Date of next meeting:** 25 January 2019

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**  
**Mr G Finnegan**

**Date: 25 January 2019**