

Minutes of New College Leicester Trustees meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023 at 5 pm at New College Leicester.

Present

Dipak Patel – Trustee/Chair
Sue Billington – Trustee
Jane Brown – Principal/Trustee
Ian Chakravorty – Trustee
Angus Fraser - Trustee

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Elly Cutkelvin – Trustee

2. Matter Arising from the previous meeting held on 25 May 2023.

Jane Brown reported that the Accounts had been submitted and confirmation received. It was reiterated that revaluating the assets was not felt to be necessary at this stage.

3. Company Secretary Report.

Jane Brown reported that Richard Seaman had resigned as Trustee/Company Secretary. Lynn Dawson (Clerk to the GB) had been appointed as Company Secretary and will take control of the submissions to Companies House.

It was reported that Ian Chakravorty will have completed his two five-year terms as Trustee on 14 January 2024 so has to step down according to the Articles of Association. Dipak Patel (Chair) asked Ian to continue to support the Trust Board in a friend/advisory capacity. The Articles of Association state a minimum of 7 Trustees are required and therefore 2 vacancies were declared.

It was agreed that Trustees would advertise the vacancies on LinkedIn and with their networks.

ACTION: Sue Billington to draft an advert for Trustees focused on Educational philosophy/Law and Finance backgrounds.

4. Governing Body Update.

Sue Billington gave a report from the October 2023 GB meeting. The Ofsted outcome from the June 2023 inspection had been very well received.

Focus was being accelerated on Attendance and New College was at National level.

The Finance lead Governor, Richard Seaman, had resigned. There was a proactive plan to increase the number of governors on the Board and to over recruit with associates, if possible, to future proof the GB.

5. Strategic Discussion.

a) Condition Survey.

Jane Brown presented the output from the Condition Survey and a detailed 4-year plan of what spend was required to rectify the condition of New College. She reported that a meeting had been held with the LA regarding their legal requirement to support New College as a Maintained School. The LA were made aware of the position regarding the condition and the spend required, although no guarantees had been made regarding the support required.

The Trustees emphasised that the reserves accumulated by New College for maintenance work would be earmarked for the essential work and the decisions for spend on the estate would lie with the Trustees.

b) Potential Investment in Sports Facilities.

A paper describing a potential opportunity for a sports partnership was presented and discussed. It was agreed that this was at a very early stage of development, and more detail would be required before the Trust board could make any decision on the potential proposition. It was agreed that any proposal for sports partnerships must be financially viable, and they would look for clearly defined positive income stream for the benefit of the school.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed for the date of the next meeting to be held on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 5pm. This would cover the AGM and the approval of the Annual Accounts.