

CORPORATE BOARD

NORTH WEST KENT COLLEGE

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the CORPORATE BOARD

held at 9.00am on Saturday, 9 October 2010 at Oakfield Lane, Dartford

Present: Mr E Anderson (Chairman)
Dr R Finney
Ms E Birchenough
Mrs S Adams
Mr D Gleed
Mr G Moody
Mr R Higgins
Mr A Parkinson
Mr B Newell
Mrs P Jones
Mr O Oguns

In attendance: Mr D Holland (Clerk to the Corporation)
Mrs P Morgan (Vice Principal)
Mrs C Hopkins (minuting secretary)

P-1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Ms D Wroblewski, Mr Parkes, Mr Butterfield and Mr Singh Gill.

D-1 EVERY CHILD MATTERS – OVERVIEW OF 2009/2010

Members received and noted the Report on Every Child Matter, which had been deferred from the Board meeting (Paper No CB/06.10.10/D-1).

Referring to the change in Government, Mrs Adams asked whether any changes in *Connexions* were envisaged. Although any changes were unknown at this stage, the Principal advised that the College had good links with *Connexions* and he was hopeful that these would continue.

Dr Finney was disappointed to note the numbers of students who had participated in the activities provided and questioned whether the College could highlight national concerns, for example, eating and obesity. He suggested that management could focus on one or two national issues. The Principal explained that although a comprehensive tutorial programme had

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been developed for this year and issues would be covered across College, it was notoriously difficult to secure students' engagement.

The Chairman noted the introduction of smoking areas on campus and suggested that the College could seek assistance from the NHS West Kent with a view to promoting 'no smoking', enabling the College to become entirely smoke-free in time.

Members accepted the overview report for 2009/2010 on Every Child Matters.

D-2 STUDENT EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY – OVERVIEW OF 2009/2010

Members received and noted the Student Equality and Diversity Activity Report for 2009/2010, which had been deferred from the Board meeting (Paper No CB/06.10.10/D-2).

Members discussed, particularly, the references to lower numbers of students in certain areas, such as women in construction and men in hairdressing. Although it was agreed that national comparative data would be helpful, members considered it inappropriate to set targets and then be chastised for non-achievement of those targets. It was considered more appropriate to consider the targets and how to embed them within the curriculum, while ensuring that every effort was made to ensure that both sexes have the same opportunities. Mrs Adams believed that consideration could be given to external advertising and marketing, with a view to highlighting role models within the community.

The Principal considered that there were two issues for the Board's consideration: why some sectors of the community were not being served at all; and, while the students were at College, what was their output and were they achieving as well as everyone else. He reminded members that students came to College with different support needs and it was important to ensure these were addressed.

Mrs Jones questioned why the disability and learning criteria were divided, as equality and diversity was about accessibility for all participants. Mr Parkinson believed it was dangerous to consider only the end result, rather than looking at ways of appealing to students. He considered it possible to change people's thinking over time.

Mr Moody reminded members that there was a financial issue with post-19, which he believed important to take into account.

Although considered a mechanistic report, the Chairman found the report to be acceptable, although remarking that no explicit reference to age had been made. He noted generic issues across the schools, which the College needed to address. Also, he believed it important to refer to achievements, ie, were the students different at the end of their studies, rather than focussing on

negative impact.

Overall, members were satisfied to accept the report.

C-1 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None was raised.

C-2 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Meeting: 5.00pm, Wednesday, 15 December 2010 in the Boardroom at Dartford (presentation by SFA at 5pm, meeting to follow).

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