

LONGLEY PARK SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

MINUTES of a Special meeting of the CORPORATION

held on **14 SEPTEMBER 2011** at 5.00pm
at the College, Horninglow Road, Sheffield S5 6SG

Present: Kevin Clifford (Vice-Chair) (in the chair)
Omer Abdulqader
Richard Allen
Bob Bridge
Dave Darwent
Nick Duggan
Margaret Ferris
Alan Hancock
Jeremy Lonsdale
Corrine Moss
Mo Nisbet (Principal)
Alastair Reid
Karen Squires
Mike Westerdale

In attendance: Dominic Harrex (Assistant Principal (Resources))
Sharon Langridge (Clerk to the Corporation)
Donald McLean (Vice-Principal (Student Engagement))
Alison Megahy (Vice-Principal (Curriculum & Quality))

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Law, Doug Liversidge and Paul White.

Action by
Who When

1 **CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair it was agreed that the Vice-Chair should chair the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for giving their time to attend an additional meeting.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nick Duggan declared an interest as the officer leading on the studio school bid for the City Council. The Chair informed Governors that he would ask Nick to withdraw part way through the meeting to allow them to have a discussion without a Local Authority presence.

3 **RESIGNATION/APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS**

The Clerk informed Governors that Tom Jackson had submitted his resignation from the Corporation on 27th July. She explained that Bob Bridge had been co-opted to the Resources Committee in December 2009 on the recommendation of the Search, Governance & Remuneration Committee until a vacancy arose and therefore proposed his appointment.

The Governing Body recorded its thanks to Tom Jackson for his contribution to the College over the past two years and approved the appointment of Bob Bridge as an Independent Governor for a term of four years.

4 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS**

The Clerk outlined the proposals for membership of the Corporation Committees. She still needed to speak to Mike Westerdale about his availability, but Corrine Moss had contacted her earlier that day and volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee.

The Governing Body approved appointments to the Corporation Committees as follows:

Audit Committee

Margaret Ferris (Chair)
Alan Hancock
Corrine Moss
Alastair Reid
Paul White

Curriculum & Quality Committee

Richard Allen
Nick Duggan
Jeremy Lonsdale
Parent Governor
Karen Squires
Principal (ex-officio)
Steve Robinson (co-optee)

Resources Committee

Omer Abdulqader
Bob Bridge
Kevin Clifford
Dave Darwent
Alan Law
Doug Liversidge
Principal (ex-officio)

Search, Governance & Remuneration Committee

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporation
Chair and Vice-Chair of Corporation Committees

5 **STUDIO SCHOOL BID**

The Principal outlined the work that had been undertaken over the summer to develop the bid and the meetings with potential partners. The Assistant

Principal (Resources) explained that one of the requirements in order to submit a bid was to establish a company limited by guarantee. This would mean that the College would have a liability of £10 should the company need to be wound up. The proposed subscribers of the company would be the College, the City Council and The Source. Each of the subscribers would be members of the Academy Trust. The proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association were based on the model for free schools as there was not a model available for studio schools as yet. Governors sought assurance that the Corporation would be operating within its powers and that this had been confirmed. The (Assistant Principal (Resources) assured Governors that this was the case.

The Principal confirmed that the intention would be to seek Firth Park Community Arts College and Yewlands Technology College involvement in the Trust at a later date. The involvement of the College's other partner schools would also be welcomed. In response to a query regarding the unanimity of members, the Assistant Principal (Resources) explained that he had not amended the clauses in the Articles of Association which were used for free schools.

Governors were informed that a decision on the bid could be expected from the Department for Education in November.

Governors discussed the governance arrangements. They noted that it was proposed that the Governing Body would comprise of nine governors appointed by the members of the Academy Trust, one Local Authority Governor and the Principal of the studio school. The Assistant Principal (Resources) explained that there were strict rules regarding local authority involvement and influence.

The Assistant Principal (Resources) circulated an amended version of the draft studio school application and talked Governors through the changes that had been made to the initial draft.

Governors noted that in relation to questions of residency, distance was usually the determining factor.

The principal reported that 200 of the College's students had been consulted on the plans for the proposed studio school, so there would be some useful data to accompany the submission.

The Assistant Principal (Resources) assured Governors that apart from the initial start up plans there would be no financial risk to the College as the Academy Trust would be an independent organisation with a separate legal identity. If the submission was approved the Department for Education would make funding available for marketing and development. For the purposes of financial planning the current levels of funding per learner were being used. There was also a requirement to build in a year on year surplus. Staffing levels had been estimated on the basis of existing staff/learner ratios. There was currently a question mark over TUPE implications and some areas of capital investment.

Governors sought absolute assurance that the development of a studio school would not impact adversely on the College. The Principal and Assistant Principal (Resources) assured Governors that this was the case as the Academy trust would be an independent organisation and there was no indication that the Department for Education would expect a sponsoring organisation to bail it out should it fail. It would also receive its own separate OfSTED inspection. Governors asked if there was any view from the banks on the financial position regarding studio schools. The Assistant Principal (Resources) explained that there was no view at this stage as studio schools were new and untested, and therefore not on the radar for many of the banks.

Governors acknowledged that developing the bid would take up resources in the form of staff time. The Principal explained that she had made an initial approach to the City Council about the potential for assistance to reduce the burden on College staff.

Nick Duggan explained that the whole tenet of studio school proposal was practical learning. He then withdrew from the meeting.

(see separate Confidential Minute)

Signed: (Chair)

Date: