

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Held on 16 September 2010 in the Boardroom of the College

Present: Paul Pharaoh (Chair), Les Agnew; Mark Stanger; Cath Richardson;
Rick Wylie.

Apologies: Damian McSweeney

In Attendance: Jane Murray (Clerk to the Governors)

14/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1 July 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

15/10 Declarations of Interest

None received.

16/10 Annual Review of Board Membership

The Clerk had tabled a report which updated the Committee on current membership and presented the self-assessment and skills base analysis, in addition to an overview of attendance in 2009-10 and a draft training plan for 2010-11.

There was one current vacancy for membership which was the schools' partnership governor, and the Clerk was able to update the Committee that Mr Tom Ryan, Headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic High School, had now responded and had agreed to be nominated.

The committee also required to consider two further members whose terms of office were expiring in December.

In considering options, the Committee felt that the Board would benefit from further private sector representation but acknowledged that the area's entrepreneurs were often too busy making money to have the time and commitment.

They acknowledged that the Board were fortunate to have the private sector input of the Chairman of the Corporation and felt that his re-appointment should be recommended to the Board.

Mr Davidson had been a valued and loyal member of the Board for some considerable time and had been appointed at a time when local authority membership was stipulated by regulations. This was no longer a requirement. The Committee were aware of the good working relationships between the Principal and Chief Executive of Allerdale Borough Council, and felt reassured that this would continue were the opportunity to be taken to refresh the Board by seeking further private sector participation. For this reason, the Committee wished to recommend to the Board that Mr Davidson be warmly thanked for his commitment and hard work over a number of years, but were minded not to recommend his reappointment for a third term in December.

(Action since: Mr Davidson tendered his resignation from the Board with immediate effect immediately following the Search and Governance Committee meeting, declaring a prejudicial interest owing to Allerdale Borough Council commitments).

It was agreed that an advertisement should be placed to see whether suitable private sector candidates stepped forward. However, there was also some discussion about the optimum number of Board members for the efficient running of the Board

Turning their attention to attendance, the record for 2009-10 was considered and it was accepted that two special Board meetings had adversely affected attendance figures this year.

With respect to the skills mix and training needs assessment, it was felt that the key skills and knowledge areas were well covered. Some concern was expressed that one or two responses fell into the lower brackets, but the Clerk sought to reassure the Committee that this did not represent one or two individuals consistently self-assessing at this level but the occasional area where one person felt less confident.

The areas where the self-assessment showed less confidence were reflected in the training plan or in other ways, such as through regular Principal briefings. Having identified a good publication on leadership and health and safety, the clerk proposed that there should be an additional November training session with the sessions to run being Safeguarding for those who haven't completed the training already and a second on introduction to Finance, which was agreed.

The Committee

Resolved –

- 1) To recommend the re-appointment of Damian McSweeney from December 2010-December 2014.
- 2) With the warmest of thanks to Mr Davidson, not to recommend his re-appointment for a third term.
- 3) To note the attendance figures for 2009-10
- 4) To agree the training plan for 2010-11 and keep this under review.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm