

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 17.30 via TEAMS.

PRESENT:

Dr Thomas Moore (Chair)
Mr Brian Doran (SRC CEO)
Mr Scott Alexander
Miss Daniela Sanches Egas
Mr Nick Harkness
Mr Stuart Harper
Mr Aidan McCormick
Mr Gary McMurray
Dr Laura Milner
Prof Gregory O'Hare
Mr Tom Redmond
Mrs Carla Shields
Mrs Hilary Singleton
Dr Eileen Stewart
Mrs Tracy Strachan
Mr Kieran Swail
Mrs Judith Thompson
Mr Matthew Turner

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Lee Campbell, Director of Finance and Planning
Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum
Mr Raymond Sloan, Director of Client Services
Miss Lindsay Armstrong, Secretary to the Governing Body

The meeting convened at 17.30.

Dr Moore welcomed all parties to the first meeting of Southern Regional College's Governing Body in 2023.

A01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair reminded those present to declare at the commencement of the meeting any conflict of interest held in matters to be discussed. No interests were disclosed.

A03. MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Governing Body meeting of 28 November 2022 were reviewed for accuracy, and unanimously approved on proposal from Mr Alexander and seconded by Mr Turner, subject to minor spelling mistakes under A06.

A04. MATTERS ARISING

Dr Moore recommended sharing with Members the slides provided as part of the presentation for the Partnership Engagement Event.

Dr Moore informed on his meeting with Donna Blaney and the new FE Director Louise Watson on 5 January.

Prof O'Hare arrived at the meeting at 17.34.

A05. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Dr Moore advised that the prior Chair, Mr Andrew Saunders, was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year Honours 2023 for services to the further education sector in Northern Ireland.

**ACTION
By whom**

Miss Armstrong

Members expressed their delight at the well-deserved accolade and agreed that a letter of congratulations should be sent to Mr Saunders on behalf of the full Board.

Miss Armstrong

A06. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mr Doran informed that the new Partnership Agreement is a redefinition of and shall replace the Management Statement / Financial Memorandum which sets out how colleges operate and provides an operational framework in regard to financial controls and risk management. He advised that he, along with other Principals and Chairs, sit on the Task and Finish Group and have relayed Governors comments on the document to the Department.

Mr Doran referred Members to the Engagement Plan April 2023 to March 2024 and advised on SRC's inclusion of college officials highlighted in blue text. In response to a query from Mrs Singleton, Mr Doran advised that the Lead Departmental Official and main point of contact is the FE Director. Mrs Singleton commented that she is pleased to see the dispute resolution processes documented.

Mr Doran informed that he continues to raise the matter of the frequency of CSB apprenticeship audits and has highlighted the need to reflect a risk based approach in line with the objective of proportionate autonomy. He referred Members to the Departmental opinion that the College remains 'low' risk.

In response to a comment from Prof O'Hare on the Engagement Plan, Mr Doran advised that he will relay to the Department the need to be reactive to emerging situations whilst emphasising consideration for the necessity of mandated meetings when there is no sufficient and substantial business to debate.

Mr Doran referred Members to the Corporate Compliance risk assessments and advised on Departmental comments highlighted in red. He informed on Directorate comments highlighted in blue regarding communication and information management, financial management and review, monitoring and risk management. Members noted that SRC scores extremely high in all eight corporate governance profiles.

Members confirmed that they were content with the draft Partnership Agreement and action plan.

A07. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

A08. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Governance Strategy Day is to be convened on 24 January 2023 in the Newry campus.

The meeting concluded at 17.55.

CHAIR

DATE

Certified as a true copy of minutes approved by Members at their meeting of 2 February 2023 by the Secretary, Miss Lindsay Armstrong.

signature redacted

6 February 2023
DATE