



Special Search and Governance Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at 1:40 pm in Room 301

Governors: Mr P Cook (Principal and Chief Executive), Mr M Duffey, Ms A Tregear, Mr M White and Mrs N Wilburn (Chair)

Officials: Adam Howe (Governance Support Officer) and Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation)

(Meeting commenced at 1.40 pm)

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

S18/36 Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

S18/37 Agenda Item 2 – Corporation Membership

The FE Corporation Chair spoke to the committee on a recent application received from Louise Davies a School Business Manager at Nicholas Postgate Academy Trust. The FE Corporation Chair and the Chief Executive along with the Clerk to the Corporation met with Louise on 5th November to discuss the application, the role and the commitment. They also discussed topics such as confidence in speaking up, expressing an opinion and challenging senior managers, all of which Louise confirmed that she was confident in doing. The FE Corporation Chair expressed that he liked her style, warmth and empathy and felt that she would make a significant contribution to the board. It was also felt that Louise had strong knowledge of Redcar and Cleveland Borough as well as pre-16 education. A governor confirmed that they had had previous contact with Louise through the Schools Forum and felt that she would make a great addition. The Chief Executive confirmed that Louise was not an accountant but that her other skills and experience provided balance. However, a person with a strategic finance background was still needed. A governor asked how she felt about the commitment and how it would affect other commitments. The Chief Executive confirmed that Louise had discussed with her family and was happy with the commitment.

The committee **agreed to recommend** Louise to the FE Corporation for appointment and that a note to governors should be sent prior to the next meeting. It was also **agreed** to invite Louise to the next FE Corporation meeting on 22nd November 18.

An application had been received from Gary Wright from North Tees Trust and this was being pursued, with a meeting booked in for 3rd December 2018. The Chief Executive confirmed that he was happy to pursue inclusion on the Board of an educational professional on a co-opted basis if needed as he felt the skills on the board were adequate to cover this aspect.

S18/38 Agenda Item 3 – Any other business

The Clerk tabled two applications from students. One for the Co-opted HE Student position to Standards Improvement Committee (SIC). The second for the Student Governor position for the Stockton sites.

HE Student Eleanor Barwick had applied to join the Standards Improvement Committee as a Co-opted member. Eleanor was studying Early Years Foundation Degree (Year 1) at Redcar & Cleveland College. The FE Corporation Chair was due to meet with her prior to the SIC to discuss the role and the commitment and it was **agreed** that the Chair would make a **recommendation** for her appointment based on this meeting.

A ballot was held between Monday 15th October and Monday 22nd October 2018 for the Student Governor role for a student from the Stockton sites. 184 students voted, after the votes were verified, 133 votes were valid and Georgia Overton was declared as the winner. The committee considered and **agreed to recommend** Georgia be appointed to the FE Corporation as a Student Governor. The Clerk explained that Georgia had been paired up with another governor who would act as a mentor and that the Governance Support Officer would meet with Georgia prior to meetings to go through the meeting papers.

The committee then discussed the importance of how Student Governors engaged with the Corporation meetings. A governor suggested that they may not feel comfortable to contribute based on the topics covered on the agenda and that it might be worth considering adding student focused items. Another governor added that it might be useful for Student Governors to understand the impact of what is being reported on learner experience and that they do not need to know or understand everything. It was agreed that this was a good idea but that it would take a significant amount of time and commitment to do so.

S18/39 Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Documents for Public Inspection

It was **agreed** that the agenda and supporting documents, with the exception of application forms, which included personal details, should be made available for public inspection. Minutes would be published following committee approval.

S18/40 Agenda Item 5 – Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place at 4 pm on Thursday 12th December 2018.

S18/41 Agenda Item 6 – Key Themes

The following items were identified as key themes:

- Governor Recruitment
- Support for Student Governors

(The meeting ended at 2pm)