



**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REIGATE LEARNING ALLIANCE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 05 MARCH 2018**

**Present:** Mr Michael Jones - Chair  
Ms Pat Frankland  
Mr Stephen Hewes  
Mr Richard Stephen  
Mr Chris Whelan - Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Nick Clark - Principal

**In attendance:** Mr Jon Allen, Clerk to the Corporation

**1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Michael Jones declared his interest in being a Member of the Trust.

Jon Allen declared an interest against agenda item 4 - Coulsdon Structure Prospects Appraisal - as he clerks at Coulsdon College and is clerking the SPA Steering Group meetings. It was agreed that he would not participate in any of the discussions relating to this agenda item.

**4. COULSDON COLLEGE STRUCTURE PROSPECTS APPRAISAL**

An update was made available on the drafting of the proposal for the RLA to be the strategic partner for Coulsdon College.

The expectation is that any strategic partner will take on the liability and debts of Coulsdon College. The Trustees reaffirmed the earlier decision of the Trust Board that the RLA will not cross fund Coulsdon College.

One way of easing the impact of taking on the liabilities and debt of Coulsdon College will be through the possible sale of land that belongs to Coulsdon College. To this end, it was confirmed RLA has approached the planning department and has submitted a pre-application for their consideration. The pre-application should give feedback on the likelihood of being able to obtain planning permission.

Selling the land with planning permission would strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the College, but the proposal also requires dealing with the College's short-term financial issues. Discussions need to be held with the Transitions Unit to

see what financial support would be available and whether this would be in the form of a grant or loan. In addition, confirmation needs to be received from the Transition Unit on how the Coulsdon College's bank repayment is to be met.

The proposal needs to be clear on the synergy between the two Colleges and of the benefits that the Federation arrangement brought to the students with the College now being 'Good'. The positive impact on the learners arising from the Federation partnership is a key point to promote in the proposal.

The proposal to outline that Coulsdon needs a number of other changes, these including:

- A distinct educational offer with greater emphasis on vocational courses
- An academic offer would continue though reduced in scale and improved in quality
- A new identity e.g. branding, name
- Management changes

The proposal needs to clearly state what we can offer and what we can do.

Other areas that need further clarification include costs of redundancy and whether such costs can be met by the Transition Unit. Clarity needs to be sought on any pension liabilities. Clarification also needs to be sought on whether the land sale would be subject to capital gains.

It was further agreed that no commitment can be given to a firm closing date for the entire process i.e. we will not suggest that we can implement this by August, neither will we say that we have another date in mind. It was agreed the timing will be driven by the process.

It was **AGREED** to circulate the final draft of the proposal for their review and comment, and when doing so, the Chair asked Trustees to copy all Trustees into their email replies.

## **6. JOHN RUSKIN COLLEGE**

It was reported to the Trust that John Ruskin are in the process of conducting a Strategic Prospects Appraisal and the Principal of John Ruskin has invited the RLA to submit an Expression of Interest.

It was **AGREED** to authorise the Executive to submit an Expression of Interest.

## **7. WORKING TITLES/LONDON SCREEN ACADEMY**

It was confirmed discussions remain on-going with the London Screen Academy on the possibility of this Academy joining the MAT.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted the Trust has been reactive in terms of responding to approaches made to the RLA on possible future strategic partnerships. This in itself has been a very positive development, but consideration has to be given on having a clear strategic vision on the growth of the MAT. It was agreed for this to be subject to further discussion at a later meeting of the Board or at a specific strategy meeting.

There was no other business.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to move the next planned meeting of the Trust Board from the scheduled meeting on 27 March to 08 May 2018, starting at 1800.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_