



CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REIGATE LEARNING ALLIANCE TRUST BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2018

Present: Mr Michael Jones - Chair
Ms Pat Frankland
Mr Stephen Hewes
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

Apologies were received from Richard Stephen.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Jon Allen declared an interest against agenda item 5 - 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. TRUSTEE RESIGNATIONS

As a direct result of the Structures Prospects Appraisal (SPA) being conducted on Coulsdon College by the FE Commissioner, it was confirmed that those RLA Trustees, who are also governors at Coulsdon College, have resigned from the RLA to avoid any potential conflict of interest. These being, Robert Hails, Dawn Hughes, Sharmin Joarder, Del Attach and Ciaran McSharry. Once the SPA process has been concluded, the expectation is that they will re-join the Trust Board.

Mr Michael Jones confirmed at the meeting that he has resigned as a governor of Coulsdon College.

5. COULSDON COLLEGE STRUCTURE PROSPECTS APPRAISAL

This special meeting was arranged in order to provide Trustees with an update on the SPA currently being undertaken on Coulsdon College by the FE Commissioner. Trustees received an explanation of the SPA process and the timetable to be followed.

The SPA process is overseen by a Steering Group and the first meeting of the SPA Steering Group was recently held. This meeting was used to identify possible organisations who could be asked to submit an expression of interest with a view to being considered as the strategic partner of Coulsdon College.

The second meeting of the SPA Steering Group will be used to agree a short-list of organisations who will be invited to submit proposals.

The third meeting will provide the opportunity for the organisations, who have been shortlisted, to present their proposal to the SPA Steering Group.

The Coulsdon Corporation will receive, for consideration, a recommendation from the SPA Steering Group as to who should be the College's strategic partner, and this will be considered at the Coulsdon Corporation meeting scheduled for 26 March 2018.

The aim is for Coulsdon College to notify the preferred strategic partner by Tuesday 27 March 2018.

It was confirmed that the Reigate Learning Alliance (RLA) has been asked to complete an Expression of Interest and, if completed, for this to be returned to Coulsdon College by 08 February 2018. A summary was made available on the required contents for the Expression of Interest.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Executive to complete and submit the Expression of Interest.

It was **AGREED** that, once completed, the Expression of Interest should be emailed to Trustees for their comment.

A discussion took place as to the approach to be followed should the RLA be short-listed to submit a detailed proposal.

After a thorough discussion, it was **AGREED** to support the direction of travel outlined in discussions of the possible sale of part of the land at Coulsdon College, and to seek a pre-planning application for the land, in order to raise funds as a possible contribution. This contribution would go towards the financial costs that would be involved if the Trust was to be the agreed strategic partner for Coulsdon College.

It was confirmed that the submission date for the full proposal is 12 March. It was **AGREED** that the full proposal covering the education and business case should be reviewed and approved by the Trust Board before it is submitted. It was agreed to add this to the Trust Finance Committee's agenda item on 05 March 2018 and to invite all Trustees to attend this meeting.

6. LONDON SCREEN ACADEMY/MELLOR EDUCATIONAL TRUST

An update was made available of the events that had taken place over the last week which had resulted in the Trustees of the London Screen Academy seeking a new sponsor. The trustees made it clear they no longer wished the Mellor Educational Trust to be the sponsor, as originally planned. An approach has been made to the RLA to see if the Trust would be willing to be the sponsor of the London Screen Academy. It was further confirmed the DfE supports the approach that has been made to the RLA.

The Academy is a Free School and is planned to open in September 2019 in premises already obtained in Islington. A Principal has been appointed and will soon take up post.

In terms of reasons as to why this proposed strategic alliance is of interest to the RLA, it was agreed that new Academy has a purpose and ethos that matches those of the RLA, and that there is synergy between the two organisations. If the strategic alliance is to be pursued then an educational and business case will be presented to the Trust Board.

In terms of a way forward, it was **AGREED** to support the direction of travel outlined and to arrange an exploratory meeting as soon as possible involving Trustees from the London Screen Academy and Trustees from the RLA.

7. RLA TRUST POLICY AND PROCEDURES

It was **RESOLVED**, with effect from 01 September 2017, for the Reigate Learning Alliance to adopt the policies and procedures that were in place for Reigate College.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Finance Committee with all Trustees to be invited to attend - Monday 05 March 2018 @ 1800.

Trust Board 27 March 2018 @ 1800.

The meeting closed at 19.35

Signed: _____ Date: _____