

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 30th October 2008

Part 1

Present: Mr C Alderson-Smith (in the Chair), Mrs C Boardman, Mr J Gaggini,
Mr P Heygate, Mr C Barney, Mr C Moody, Mr R Sadler

In Attendance: Mr G Davies. Mr J Mair, Mr M Wilkinson

08/170 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received. The Chairman welcomed Richard Sadler to the meeting.

08/171 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council. Mr Heygate declared an interest as a supplier to the College and in the establishment of a northern ring road.

08/172 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2008 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

08/173 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

08/174 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. The project was reported to be on schedule but was thought to actually be ahead of time. The possibility of joining into the existing building at Easter instead of summer was being investigated to avoid the contractors having to go off site. The IT cabling would need to be temporarily re-routed to allow this to happen. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Hockey Pitch (paper C)

The financial report was discussed. The pitch had been handed over 2 days late due to a delay in certifying the electrical works. 1 booking had had to be cancelled. A claim for liquidated damages would be made. The pitch was now

in regular use. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

c) Holcot retail developments (paper D)

The financial report was discussed. Both units had opened on 25th October. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

08/175 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)

The application for approval in principle had been submitted in early October. It had not been confirmed yet whether the application would go to the LSC Capital Committee in December. A meeting had been held with the LSC which included possible changes which could require the College to borrow the full amount of its contribution at the start of the project before any funding could be drawn down. An application for full planning permission for the houses would be submitted next week. Planning issues and relationships with local bodies were discussed. Most potential problems appeared to be associated with transport. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

08/176 Long term development in the context of the South Midlands expansion (agenda item 7)

There was no progress to report as no active discussions were taking place at present. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

08/177 Unity School/Academy (agenda item 8)

DCSF had granted approval within 1 week of receiving the application to establish an academy. Consultants were now being appointed and it was also hoped to appoint a Principal before Christmas. Public consultation would take place in the new year. All costs would be underwritten by DCSF. The composition of the Board of Trustees and the Governors would need to be decided. Jane Charlton-Jones had been asked to become involved on behalf of the College. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

08/178 Management Accounts for August 2008 (agenda item 9, paper E)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus was to date £1,669,406 compared to a budget of £1,315,880. The College was in financial category A and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. Temporary borrowing may be required if the work on the LRC was accelerated. The claim for the VAT refund was still to be paid. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved*.

08/179 Full-time recruitment 2008-9 (agenda item 10, paper F)

The report was discussed. Total HE recruitment was up by 38%. Much of the increase in part-time HE numbers was in Construction. Full-time FE numbers were up by 9%, just meeting the LSC target. Further students were being

recruited. Numbers enrolled on part-time traditional work were similar to last year. Apprentice numbers were weak but improving. Dataforce had been employed for 6 weeks to canvass companies for apprenticeship places and future training opportunities. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

08/180 Employment of Related Persons Policy (agenda item 11, paper G)

Proposed changes were discussed *and approved.* The policy would now go to the Board in December.

08/181 Governor Development Day 2009 (agenda item 12)

The format of the event to be held on 12th March had been discussed by the Personnel sub-Committee. A visit to another college was proposed as a development activity. Hartpury and Reaseheath Colleges would be suitable venues and the possibility of a 2 day visit was discussed. CAFRE in Northern Ireland could also be considered as it was prominent in food technology and sustainability. Following discussion, *it was agreed to produce a proposal and sound out Governors.*

08/182 Date of next meeting (agenda item 12)

Thursday 27th November 2008 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

08/183 Any other business

a) Policy on Tuition and Examination Fees

Changes had been made to reflect the current position. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

Part 1 of the meeting concluded. Jamie Mair left the meeting.