

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday 27th August 2009

Part 1

Present: Mr C Alderson-Smith (in the Chair), M C Barney, Mrs C Boardman,
Mr J Gaggini, Mr C Moody and Mr R Thompson

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

09/142 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

Mr Heygate would be arriving shortly.

09/143 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

09/144 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

Paul Heygate joined the meeting.

09/145 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

a) HE Funding 2009-10 (minute 09/135)

Writtle College had declined to provide funding for the 5 students transferring to Moulton from Shuttleworth College.

09/146 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. The building was due to be handed over on schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Vocational Skills Academies

i) South Northants (paper Ci)

The financial report was discussed. The College's work was on schedule. However, the new building was currently 2 weeks behind schedule and may not be ready for the start of term. Temporary provision may need to be made for classrooms and animal accommodation. The College would enter into a new 15 year lease for the whole site with 5 year break clauses. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

ii) East Northants (paper Cii)

The financial report was discussed. The animal welfare building was almost complete. Planning permission had been obtained for the plumbing workshop extension conditional on the construction of a cycleway. A contract had been issued and construction of the building would start next week. The temporary classrooms had arrived on site. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

iii) Daventry

The financial report was discussed. Work was on schedule in the workshop building. Staff had moved onto the Badby Road site. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

c) Student Social Centre (paper D)

The financial report was discussed. The design, QS and project management fees were estimated to be £430,009 excluding VAT. It was proposed to use GSS to project manage this part of the project. The project required value engineering to ensure the most cost-effective construction methods were used. Following discussion, *the report was noted and approval was given to move to the detailed design stage*.

d) Sports Therapy Centre (paper E)

The financial report was discussed. EMDA had agreed that NEL should support the Sports Therapy Centre in the sum of £800,000 subject to further detail being supplied. The design, QS and project management fees were estimated to be £947,049 excluding VAT. It was proposed to use GSS to project manage this part of the project. The project required value engineering to ensure costs were realistic. Following discussion, *the report was noted and approval was given to move to the detailed design stage*.

09/147 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)

a) Planning Applications

This item was discussed and a confidential minute kept.

b) LSC Capital Support Application

Approval was still awaited from the LSC regarding the applications for permission to build and borrow for the Social Centre and Sports Therapy Centre. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

09/148 Management Accounts for July 2009 (agenda item 7, paper F)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £398,112 over the budget. The College was in financial category A and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence at the end of the financial year. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved*.

09/149

09/150 Student Association/Student Social Club quarterly accounts (agenda item 8, paper G)

The Social Club surplus was £2,016. Gross surplus was lower than last year but overheads had been reduced. The Student Association surplus of £1,301 was significantly lower than last year due to a poor response to discos and other events. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/151 ILR Update 2008-9 (agenda item 9, paper H)

The report was discussed *and noted.*

09/152 Recruitment 2009-10 (agenda item 10, paper I)

There was a large number of applications for which the College did not have places. All National Award courses were over subscribed but most First Diplomas were under recruited. The HE target had been exceeded. Apprenticeship recruitment was poor, mainly due to the lack of work placements. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/153 Letting Activity (agenda item 11, paper J)

A report on letting activity during 2008-9 was discussed *and noted.*

09/154 Relationship with NCC (agenda item 12)

The Principal reported on recent meetings with 2 county councillors. A positive relationship was developing and there was a desire to work more closely together on a number of projects. The College had been asked to consider becoming involved with a field studies centre near Geddington for primary school children. The centre was well equipped. It was maintained by a trust. The College had also been asked to look at Chester Farm, Higham Ferrers, and formulate some proposals for its future use. It could make a good environmental studies centre. Preliminary discussions had also been held on re-locating an athletics track to the College. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/155 LRC opening – Wednesday 16th September (agenda item 13)

The centre would be opened at 4.00pm by Paul Southworth, the Chairman of NEL.

09/156 Meeting dates 2010-11 (agenda item 14, paper K)

Proposed dates for 2010-11 were discussed *and approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/157 Date of next meeting (agenda item 15)

Thursday 24th September 2009 at 8.30am in the Principal's Office.

09/158 Any other businesses (agenda item 16)

a) Landex

A letter from Landex was tabled and discussed. Following discussion, *continued membership of Landex was approved.*

b) Legacy

A letter was tabled regarding a legacy of £40,000 which would be invested in the Thomas Harrison Trust and the income used for student bursaries. Formal arrangements for people who wished to leave a legacy to the College would be put in place shortly. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Access to Lodge Farm

Construction of a footpath alongside the Lodge Farm drive was required for safety purposes. The cost would be around £29,000 plus VAT and it was proposed to carry out the work at Easter 2010. Following discussion, *this work was approved as an addition to the minor capital budget.*

d) Ofsted

Notification had been received of a pending inspection under the residential childcare regulations. The date was not yet known. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

e) Study Tour request

A trip to Ireland by Arboriculture students *was approved.*

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