



Minutes of a meeting of the Corporation held in the College on 29 September 2022 at 1730 hrs.

<b>Present</b>	Alex Adranghi	Sheza Afzal	Steven Blackshaw (Chair)	Martin Buck
	James Cross	Sian Cooke	Michael Desmond	Mannat Malhi
	Adam O'Brien	Adeshola Onakoya	Kevin Watson (Principal)	
<b>In Attendance</b>	Adrian Cottrell (VP(F&R))	Ralph Devereux (Clerk)	Mohanned Khabbازه (VP(C&Q))	Kishan Pithia (VP(SS))
<b>Apologies</b>	Sheridan Mangal	Annie Gammon		

## PART ONE

### 01/22 ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM, DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND APOLOGIES

The apologies were accepted. No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office, the meeting was quorate and no interests were declared.

### 02/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Steven Blackshaw was unanimously re-elected as Chair for the year 2022/23. **(Action 1)**

### 03/22 MINUTES OF AND ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

a. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 were confirmed for electronic signature; the Clerk to action. **(Action 2)** .Re 43/21. It was confirmed that the sub-contracting proposal had been re-evaluated and concluded that the risks outweighed the benefits; it had now been discounted.

b. Actions from the last meeting had been completed.

See referenced minute for full detail.		resp	date
<b>Action 1</b>	35/21b. Papers to be published asap, individually if necessary.	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>complete</b>
<b>Action 2</b>	35/21c. Invoice for SM service approved for payment.	<b>VPFR</b>	
<b>Action 3</b>	36/21a. Last minutes confirmed for signature.	<b>Clerk</b>	
<b>Action 4</b>	37/21c. Ext & IAS Audit Plans approved.	<b>VPFR</b>	
<b>Action 5</b>	38/21a. Students congratulated for achievements.	<b>Chair</b>	
<b>Action 6</b>	38/21c. Proportion of pre & post results application tbd.	<b>VPSS</b>	
<b>Action 7</b>	40/21b. Budget to be electronically approved.	<b>VPFR</b>	
<b>Action 8</b>	41/21. SA & SC to join PWG.	<b>Chair</b>	
<b>Action 9</b>	42/21c. Safeguarding Report approved and received.	<b>VPSS</b>	
<b>Action 10</b>	42/21d. Safeguarding Policy approved.		
<b>Action 11</b>	43/21. Subcontracting arrangements agreed.	<b>VPFR</b>	
<b>Action 12</b>	44/21. Amended meeting schedule 2021/22 approved.	<b>Chair</b>	

c. There was no urgent business requested.

**The information was received.**

**Actions had been identified. (Register 12/22 below)**

### 04/22 COMMITTEES

a. Finance & General Purposes (FGP) Committee (26.02.22). The unconfirmed minutes from the FGP meeting had been electronically circulated to all Members and were explained by the Corporation Chair; the major business viz enrolment and associated financial matters, would be considered in today's meeting. The next Committee meeting would examine the budgetary implication discussed at 07/22 below.

- b. Standards Committee (StC) (29.09.22). The StC had met earlier that day and the Committee Chair summarised the outcome. The examination results (at 06/22) had evidenced sound progress with Value Added (VA) performance and the considerably more detailed analysis of data was welcomed and would inform future support and challenge.

**The information was received.**

#### **05/22 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

The Principal's Report was discussed, examination results were considered in the next item. The strategy day planned for 7 October would consider issues that will be described in the next 2 agenda items and focus on staff development and whole college rationalisation. On staffing, replacement of the current consultant with an appointed Head of SEND (students with special educational needs) and an Examinations Officer were progressing, the latter would allow greater focus on the Individual Learning Records (ILR) processes. Teachers' strikes were likely since the budget allocation of 5% against the union claim for salary increases of 11.7% would be unlikely to suffice. The Year 2 Level 3 (L3) Health and Social Care (HSC) results had been withheld though a mistake, which had failed to satisfy all required assessment criteria. The examination board had granted extra time for completion of the affected and relevant assessment objectives and all students, save two who had opted not to resit, had achieved their predicted grades and would progress to Higher Education (HE) as they had intended. Enrolments would be considered later in the meeting but during general discussion the again evidenced antipathy of Hackney schools towards B6 was a focus. This together with some suggested improvements would be brought to the next Corporation meeting. **(Action 3)**

**The information was received.**

**Actions had been identified. (Register 12/22 below)**

#### **06/22 EXAMINATION RESULTS**

A comprehensive, and interactive electronic presentation on the 2022 examination results, which had been shared and fully discussed by the Standards Committee (StC) earlier that day was then repeated by the VP(C&Q). The presentation, in 5 elements each supported by detailed tables, including, where applicable, analyses of individual subjects and VA (ALPS) performance, Members were reminded that lower VA scores were positive:

- a. A level performance. The overall pass rate had been 97% and achievement 72% compared with the last formal examination years of 2017/18 & 2018/19, which had both returned 97% pass rates. This year's outcome was a sound performance as the cohort learning had been directly affected by 2 years of Covid restrictions (evidenced by the lowest ever GCSE VA score). A total of 437 entries (comparators 386 & 236) into 19 subjects and 11 A Level Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). By separate entry numbers: 396 full A-Level entries, 14 AS-Level entries (drop downs) and 27 MFL A-Level;
- b. GCSE. A total of 352 Maths & 331 English resits had been taken; English results had slipped back, probably affected by covid reduced social activity, however Maths results had improved. The entries included 37 triple science, 25 double science and 15 Humanities students. Science outcomes had been particularly rewarding; Humanities had been less so with fewer "High Grades," which was probably due to entry into a higher than usual examination level. Graphically presented progress against entry grades was discussed;
- c. Level 3 (L3) Vocational. The overall pass rate had been 90.1% with achievement of 76.3%. A total of 261 (219 last year) and 173 (164 last year) and entries for first and second year respectively for 11 courses had been involved, the results had been meticulously analysed by subject. It was noted that the subject analysis table was incomplete (HSC) as mentioned in the Principal's report (delayed through the absence of the MIS Manager). The submission date was 20 October and it may be necessary to employ a specialist MIS consultant, the detail would be circulated to Members. **(Action 4)** The ALPS score was a welcome 5. During discussion it was explained that the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) required a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working and transfers would no longer be accepted.

- d. L2 Vocational. A total of 130 entries had been involved for 8 courses, with a pass rate of 84% AND 64.6% achievement, again the outcomes had been closely analysed;
- e. Curriculum 2021/22. Details of changes to the curriculum offer were noted.

Each element was individually explained and the results, which compared favourably with the previous pre-covid years were closely discussed; the improved outcomes, which had been more deeply analysed than previously were warmly welcomed and would inform increased support, particularly for curriculum and middle leaders. There was no doubt however that retention and attendance remained challenging areas for improvement.

**The information was received and noted.  
Action had been identified (Register at 12/22)**

## **07/22 ENROLMENTS**

- a. Report. Members had received regular progress updates during the admissions process and sadly, as in the previous year, enrolment numbers had been disappointing. The total of new students was currently 1151; there were 985 Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) funded students against the target of 1144. Also current numbers included 37 students with lower than 20% attendance, 16 of whom had never attended, with clear implications for continuance. Invitations for potential applicants to visit tour the premises and participate in personal exchanges had been worthwhile and strengthened the case for provision of such opportunities throughout the academic year. Also the “applicant tracking” programme introduced this year included an “unsubscribe” option providing useful data and which facilitated reminders that B6 remained as a fall back option. Full detail of each applicants’ secondary origins had been tabulated in the paper. The cohort profile remained similar to previous years with small numbers from a wide range of schools but with no increase in Hackney numbers, which remained at 145 or 30% of the cohort, actual numbers had also been tabulated for information. The results dictated that recruitment would continue aggressively, to increase the cohort with more “walk-ins” and continued focus on “back-on-trackers,” nevertheless, even an optimistic prediction indicated a residual shortfall of c100. Graphical and tabulated details, compared with previous years were annexed, together with a full analysis of the November census target makeup.
- b. Considerations. Full detail and the financial position and implications had been closely discussed at the last Finance and General Purpose (FGP) Committee. The numbers could increase as discussed in the preceding paragraph however the estimated residual shortfall of c100, would reduce next year’s income by £600k; realistically £1m, should be expected. The position required difficult and urgent decisions on the future; starkly, merger or scrutiny of the fundamental organisation leading to the c£1m target savings referenced earlier. These issues had been considered before, when the decision to “stand-alone” had been overwhelmingly agreed, partly influenced by optimism over future recruitment; that decision now required re-evaluation. The Committee felt that there was no such thing as a “merger” for the weaker partner, “takeover” was the actuality. There was, of course, the possibility of less dramatic involvement with fellow colleges – a hybrid arrangement, with areas of shared facilities and provision. Notwithstanding, if the “stand-alone” option remained favourite the status-quo could not continue; it would be painful but would protect the B6 unique selling point – that ethos so painstakingly engendered to support the students, including but not limited to, for example, Level 1 (L1) and L2 provision. If that were the chosen way forward then robust planning and budgeting would be required and local support including from the MPs would be sought. It may be realistic to accept realistically that a secure future lay in a smaller consolidated and realistically achievable student cohort. The decision was urgently required to inform necessary planning in time for consultation at an already agreed meeting with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), from whom additional funding, to help with the “stand-alone” arrangements, may be available. Clearly the plan would have to be robust, realistic, thoroughly evaluated and validated throughout with credible timelines; the plan would also inform the “going concern” considerations included in the Corporation assurances in Annual Financial Report at the next meeting. The whole matter

would be initially considered at the strategic planning session tbh on 7 October. **(Action 5)**. The Chair and the Principal would produce the necessary papers.

**The information was received and noted.**

**Action had been identified (Register at 12/22)**

#### **08/22 FINANCE REPORT**

The management accounts, referencing the unaudited year-end position was then considered; the comprehensive document comprised a narrative informed by graphical and tabulated detail. The accounts, drafted on 30 August, showed a c(£498k) adverse outturn, worse than the budgeted deficit figure by c(£160k); the EBITDA showed adverse at (£249). The main variances were considered and noted:

- a. adult funding was below budget by (£176k) full explanations were in the paper;
- b. staff savings of £217 required £39k staff settlement;
- c. an actuarial pension adjustment of £68k had been required;
- d. non-pay expenditure was significantly over-budget, full details were included in the paper; and
- e. the financial health rating was “Requires Improvement” and the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) were noted.

Stringency measures to avoid future overspending of individual budget lines had been considered and it had been agreed that all lines would be evaluated with an aim of an immediate 10% budget reduction and, going forwards, introduction of expenditure “trigger points” beyond which FGP approval was required.

**The information was noted and received.**

#### **09/22 GOVERNANCE**

Developments with Corporation membership were explained:

- a. Kyra Leyland had resigned from the Corporation because of increased professional commitments;
- b. Annie Gammon had informed that she would resign from the Corporation in the near future to follow a lifestyle change;
- c. Alison Wong, a well-qualified and experienced accountant, introduced by Sheza, had been interviewed by the Search Committee and recommended for appointment to the Corporation. The detail would be circulated by email for consideration, all were urged to indicate promptly; **(Action 6)** If Alison was elected then she would join the Audit Committee with a view to taking the Chair at the end of this academic year.
- d. there had been 2 further Expressions of Interest (EoI) responding to the website request for membership applications, the Search Committee would process these in the near future; and
- e. Adam O’Brien term of office had expired on 23 September and it he agreed to remain in post until the outcome of the necessary election; thanks were recorded to Adam. **(Action 7)**
- f. Sally Townsend had been confirmed as the FGP Committee Chair, hopefully to be replaced by Alex Adranghi at the end of this academic year.

**The information was received**

**Actions had been identified. (Register 12/22 below)**

#### **10/22 URGENT BUSINESS**

There had been no requests for urgent business..

**11/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meetings would be:

- a. strategic planning day at 1400 on 7 October 2022; and
- b. Corporation at 1730 on 8 December 2022.

**12/22 ACTION REGISTER**

See referenced minute for full detail.		resp	date
<b>Action 1</b>	02/22. SB elected Chair for 2022/23.	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>wie</b>
<b>Action 2</b>	03/22. Last minutes (07.07.22) confirmed for signature.		
<b>Action 3</b>	05/22. Local student recruitment tbc at next meeting.	<b>KF</b>	<b>08.12.22</b>
<b>Action 4</b>	06/22c. Missing data to be circulated to Members.	<b>VPCQ</b>	<b>asap</b>
<b>Action 5.</b>	07/22b. B6 future way forward tbc at strategic session.	<b>Chair</b>	<b>07.10.22</b>
<b>Action 6</b>	09/22c. Approval to be sought for Alison Wong appointment.		
<b>Action 7</b>	09/22e. Adam O'Brien to continue (temporarily) in post.	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>wie</b>