

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS
held on 17 May 2023 at 16:00
at Sparsholt College

¹PRESENT: J Emm (SCS); G Davies (E); T Floyd (E); N Hopkins (E, Chair); P Jordan (E); C McCormack (E); J Milburn (P); N Moody (E); A Neal (E); H Perry (S) C Wilson (E, Vice Chair).

In attendance: S Grant - Deputy Principal
N Heslop - Director of Finance
S Willson - Head of Corporate Governance

APOLOGIES

150. Apologies were received from T Floyd, J Lander, S Morgan, G Morris, J Orlanski and S Rai.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

151. There were no new interests to declare. The Board's Register of Interests records members who hold (unremunerated) directorships of the College's subsidiary companies.

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

152. The Board had received the report of the Principal providing an update on the DfE accountability reforms and a revised draft accountability statement.
153. The Principal explained that the draft accountability statement had been updated since the March meeting of the Board to reflect the DfE's national skills priorities which had now been confirmed and to add SMART objectives, including current and targeted numbers of learners.
154. It was noted that, in meeting local and national skills priorities, colleges were also asked to deliver as much provision as possible through the DfE's key programmes, namely apprenticeships, T Levels, Skills Bootcamps and the Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) Adult Education Budget Level 3 offer.
155. The Principal also reported that the draft Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) had just been shared by the Chambers of Commerce so the key sector and cross-cutting skills priorities could be added to the accountability statement.
156. On the basis of the information about national, regional and local skills needs which was now available, the Principal explained that she was minded to recommend submitting a final accountability statement by the original 31 May deadline rather than submitting a draft and seeking an extension to 31 July as agreed at the March Board meeting.

¹ (E) = External; (P) = Principal; (S) = Staff; (SCS) = Sparsholt College Services Staff Governor; (St) = Student

157. Members discussed the readership for the accountability statement when it was published. The Principal explained that targets had been set which were measurable and achievable, were in line with the college's curriculum plan, and the publication of which should not commercially disadvantage the college. The partnership colleges in the region had agreed to share their accountability statements ahead of publication and to seek to develop a regional overview which would inform future reviews of meeting skills needs by the colleges.
158. **Resolved** – that the revised accountability statement be approved as reflecting an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives to support local, regional and national skills needs and that authority be delegated to the Chair of Governors and Principal to approve the final version with the additional information about the LSIP for submission to the DfE by the deadline of 31 May 2023.
159. Confidential matters were recorded separately.
160. The meeting ended at 17.00.

Approved: 6 July 2023 Board of Governors Meeting