



GOVERNING BODY

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Friday 18 January 2008 at 5.35pm

PRESENT

Sister P Ainsworth
Mr P. Banks
Mr M Bentley
Mrs A Fox (Chair)
Sister V Hagen
Mr L Jones
Mr A Lilley
Sister M McMullan
Mr A Noblet
Mrs S Smith
Miss M Westwell

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Barton (Clerk to the Governors)

1241 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Sister M B Kelly, Mr M J O'Hare, and Mrs H Stainton

1242 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No member of the Governing Body declared an interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

1243 APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS

The Clerk reported on the resignation of the two Staff Governors, and their reasons for resigning. He also updated the meeting on progress made in relation to the Parent Governor, and the Foundation Governor.

RESOLVED: that the Governing Body note the resignation of the staff governors, and asks that the Governing Body's appreciation of their valuable contribution to the work of the Governing Body is recorded.

1244 RESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL

The Clerk reported that on 7 January 2008 he had received a letter from the Principal tendering his resignation as at 31 August 2008. He had informed the Chair and Vice Chair of Governing Body, and Sister Veronica as Sister Provincial of the Daughters of the Cross. The Chair and Vice Chair met with the Principal on 7 January 2008, and the Principal told them he would be informing staff on Tuesday 8 January 2008. The Chair formally acknowledged receipt of the Principal's resignation, and emailed members of the Governing Body informing them of the situation. The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a special meeting of the Governing Body on 18 January 2008.

The Governing Body discussed the matter, and the reasons the Principal had expressed to staff, and the Press for wishing to leave at this time.

RESOLVED: that the Governing Body accept the resignation of the Principal with regret, but respect the reasons the he has given to staff and the public for his leaving at this time.

1244 RESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL continued

The Governing Body wishes to put on record its appreciation of the valuable contribution Mr O'Hare has made to the College during his time as Principal at Holy Cross. The Principal along with staff, both past and present, has made a significant contribution in ensuring that Holy Cross is now one of the top ten colleges in the country. Everyone concerned will be sad to see the Principal leave and appreciate the valuable contribution he has made. We are sure that all at Holy Cross wish him well for the future, and hope that during the coming months the College can find a worthy successor who can take the College forward to further success.

In terms of the issues and disagreements that the Principal has with governors it is appropriate that these are dealt with internally within the College, by discussion between the parties concerned. To depersonalise the debate the Governing Body ask that Sister Veronica Hagen and the Chair of Personnel Committee lead on this matter, and report back to a future meeting.

In the meantime governors and everyone at the College now need to work together to find a new Principal who can take the College onward into a new era.

1245 APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

The Governing Body discussed the process for appointing a new Principal, and noted that a meeting has been arranged with professional recruitment agencies relating to the Deputy Principal vacancy. The Chair of Personnel Committee reported on discussions that had been held with College Management Team relating to temporary arrangements to cover the Deputy post until 31 August 2008.

It was felt that the best way forward would be to appoint a new Principal as soon as possible, and then seek their advice on the appointment of a new Deputy, or a possible Management restructure.

RESOLVED to ask the working group meeting with recruitment consultants to explore the appointment of a new Principal rather than a Deputy, and report back to the Governing Body meeting on 30 January 2008. The appointment of a new Deputy should be deferred until a new Principal appointment is made.

1246 RESTRICTED ITEM : Letter received from Staff & Press Article in Bury Times.