

AQUINAS COLLEGE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 12 February 2019
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: The College

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Miss M Braithwaite, Mr P Carter, Mr P Horton, Mr D Pearson and Mr N Sutherland.

Miss M Braithwaite in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs D Blackburn Assistant Principal Mr T Conlon Clerk to the Governing Body

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting began with a prayer led by Miss Braithwaite.

2. STUDENT GOVERNOR

Mr N Sutherland, Student Governor was welcomed to the meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Miss S Howard, Cllr T P McGee and Mrs A Taylor.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Governors and Staff were asked to declare any interest, which they may have in any of the items on the Agenda for this meeting. No interests were declared.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) National Funding Position – Minute 5b

Miss Braithwaite asked if there was any more information about the future funding methodology for sixth form colleges. Mrs Blackburn replied that nothing would change until the Comprehensive Spending Review is announced later in the year. The budget for 2019/2020 would be based on the current formula.

7. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Mrs Blackburn introduced the Management Accounts for January 2019 that had previously been circulated. The Management Accounts were consistent with the budget update.

A discussion took place on the January 2019 Accounts with particular reference to the following:

- a) Pay Expenditure – Mrs Blackburn advised Governors that no agreement had been reached on the teachers pay award but an allowance has been included in the budget. An offer of 1% had been made which is likely to be rejected resulting in possible industrial action by teachers.
- b) The surplus year to date is currently shown as £342,000. The monthly results for January 2019 show a surplus of £152,000. The revised outturn for 2018/2019 is £200,000.
- c) The cash flow drops from January 2019 to March 2019 and from April 2019 onwards ESFA income increases.
- d) The Performance indicators show that the college's financial health rating will be good by the end of the year.
- e) The extra money for the “little extras” that had announced in the budget (£149,000) has been received and departments have been asked to submit bids that will be considered later.
- f) New Economy which is part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority have confirmed that the college will receive funding for Adult Education.
- g) The additional cost to the college for the increase in employers contribution for the teachers pension will be in the region of £300,000 in a full year. Mrs Blackburn advised Governors that the additional cost would be funded until March 2020. There is consultation taking place in which schools and colleges are being asked if the DFE should continue to fund it after March 2020.
- h) The high needs income from the local authority has been received for the first two terms.

Miss Braithwaite asked for clarification on the £50,000 that is received by departments selling resources and revision books to students. Mrs Blackburn replied that it is not additional income, the college has purchased the books and sells them to students at cost.

Mr Horton asked was the position on pensions a national issue. Mrs Blackburn replied that the increase in contributions is across all of the teaching sector.

Mr Horton asked if New Economy was an elected body. Mr Pearson replied that it is part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Mr Horton also asked if adult education was a priority for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Mrs Blackburn replied that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's long term plans are to provide courses for adult students to improve their skills and become more employable. The college runs GCSE courses in English, Mathematics and Science along with AAT and Access courses. Leisure course are not funded and the student pays the full cost. Mr Pearson added that if the courses run by the college do not fit in with the priorities of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority they will not be funded.

Mr Carter asked if there was a trigger point in relation to cash flow and when money has to be taken out of reserves. Mrs Blackburn replied that she does not undertake a daily cash flow check but there is a notional figure of £500,000. She added that short term investments are held on deposit for 32 days. Mr Pearson said that the college was prudent whilst maximising interest.

If members had any questions on the January 2019 Accounts they were asked to contact Mrs Blackburn.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for January 2019 be received.

8. BUDGET UPDATE 2018/2019

Mrs Blackburn advised Governors that the budget had been re-forecasted at the end of January 2019 to take account of the increase in high needs funding. Other adjustments have been made to increase the forecasted outturn figure to £200,000 as detailed in the January 2019 Management Accounts. The main points to note are as follows;

- a) The teaching staff and support budgets are being monitored.
- b) An allowance for the teacher's pay award has been included in the budget
- c) The high needs budget is being monitored.
- d) The budget is running as expected.

RESOLVED: That the budget position be noted.

9. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the current Resources Committee Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. After a full discussion it was agreed that item 14 concerning a ten year planned maintenance programme be deleted.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Code of Conduct for Governors - The Diocese have confirmed that the college has to accept the revised Code of Conduct for Governors and that all Governors, except Student Governors are expected to sign up to the Code of Conduct. Mr Horton added that at a recent Governors Briefing with Diocese representatives it had been stated that when the Denominational Inspections are taking place a check will be made to see if Governors had signed the Code of Conduct. Copies of the acceptance form were available at the meeting for Governors to sign.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____