

AQUINAS COLLEGE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 9 February 2021

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: Virtual

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Miss M Braithwaite, Mr B Hickey, Mr P Horton, Cllr T P McGee, Mr D Pearson, Miss E Shuttlewood

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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Ms J Siddall who had tried to join the meeting after she had finished teaching.

3. WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed Mr B Hickey to his first meeting of the committee following his appointment as a Foundation Governor.

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 5 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

6. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Mrs Blackburn introduced the Management Accounts for January 2021 that had previously been circulated. The Management Accounts were consistent with the budget update.

A discussion took place on the January 2021 Accounts with particular reference to the following:

- a) Pay Expenditure – Mrs Blackburn advised Governors that the teachers pay award of 2% from September 2020 would be paid this month with a further 1.25% payable in May 2021. Support staff have been paid the second part of a biannual agreement reached last year. This was a further 2.5% from the 1st January 2021. However now that the teacher’s pay award has been agreed, Unison are considering if they will now revert to the same terms as the teachers as detailed above which is the usual outcome of negotiations. This would then be paid in March.
- b) The surplus year to date is currently shown as £590,000. The monthly results for January 2021 show a surplus of £88,000. The revised outturn for 2020/2021 is £356,000.
- c) The canteen closed at the end of the Autumn Term and staff have been put on furlough on full pay with the college receiving 80% of their pay. The accounts assume that the canteen will be open after Easter. The loss to date is £45,000, if the canteen opens in a limited form from Easter, the loss will be in the region of £127,00, with furlough grants of around £43k reducing that loss.
- d) In Adult Education the academic courses have continued using Google Classroom, whilst the leisure courses ceased in November with staff put on furlough. It is hope that the leisure courses can re-start after Easter.
- e) A bank deposit of £1.25m matured in December 2020 generating £13,000 interest. £1,25m will be reinvested in February 2021.
- f) The Teacher’s Pension Pay Grant will continue to 31 July 2022.
- g) The Performance indicators show that the college's financial health rating will be good by the end of the year.
- f) The high needs income is £310,000.

Cllr McGee advised Governors that there is significant pressure on the High Needs budget

If Governors had any questions on the January 2021 Accounts they were asked to contact Mrs Blackburn.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for January 2021 be received.

7. BUDGET UPDATE 2020/2021

Mrs Blackburn advised Governors that the budget had been re-forecasted at the end of January 2021. The main points to note are as follows;

- a) The staffing budgets had not been re-forecasted but can be now the teacher’s settlement is known. Support staff budgets will also be re-forecast using the same pay awards to show the more expensive outcome.
- b) An allowance for the teacher’s and support staff pay award has however already been included in the budget
- c) The high needs budget is being monitored.
- d) The budget is running as expected.
- e) The re-forecast carried out increased the original budget outturn from £295k to £356k

RESOLVED: That the budget position be noted.

8. INITIAL INCOME 2021/2022

Mrs Blackburn introduced the paper that had previously been circulated. The paper gave an overview of the ESFA funding for 2021/2022. The funding is based on the following factors:

- a) Student numbers based on the October 2020 census date
- b) Banding into study program hours
- c) Retention factor
- d) Program cost weighting
- e) Disadvantage funding

A spreadsheet showed how the budget was built up for 2021/2022 along with comparisons for the previous four years. The overall effect is that the college should receive an additional £ 237,670 compared with an increase of £960,191 for 2020/2021. The budget for 2021/2022 will be based on a slight increase in student numbers, 2,297 up from 2,253. The overall rate per student has increased from £4,470 to £4,488, including all elements of the funding to be received, but there is no increase to allow for inflation or pay awards on the base rate of £4,188, which remains at 2020/21 levels. The funding for core maths has not yet been confirmed but it anticipated that it will remain at a similar level to 2020/2021. The budget for 2021/2022 will once again be tight.

The SFCA campaign to increase funding for sixth form colleges will continue.

Cllr McGee advised Governors that the public sector will have a pay freeze for 2021/2022 and there are discussions taking place about whether or not sixth form colleges will shadow this as they are in fact part of the private sector. It is felt that if a pay award was granted it would be against what was intended.

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 no changes were felt necessary.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Horton asked if the college had any Business Interruption Insurance. Mrs Blackburn replied that the college had Business Interruption Insurance to cover fire and flood but would need to check to see if it covered the Covid pandemic.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 4.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairperson

Date _____