

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE  
HELD ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025 at 17:30 in BOARDROOM ARMAGH CAMPUS.**

<b>PRESENT:</b> Dr Thomas Moore (Chair) Mrs Lee Campbell (Principal / CEO) Mrs Hilary Singleton Mr Stuart Harper Mr Sean Fitzsimons Mrs Monica Kelly Mrs Angela Whiteside Mr Andrew Sloan Dr Liz Finnigan (TEAMS) Mrs Sharon O'Hare Mrs Geraldine Campbell Mrs Patricia McCaffrey Mr Nick Harkness Mr Gary McMurray Dr Laura Milner (TEAMS) Ms Celine Maria Corhea (Student Governor)	<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum Ms Joanne McGuigan, Interim Director of Finance & Planning Mrs Emma Foster Secretary to the Governing Body Mr Gary Young (Head of Estates) Agenda Item 06 Mr Lindsay Bronte (Development Manager) Agenda Item 06  <b>APOLOGIES:</b> Mr Raymond Sloan, Director of Client Services
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The meeting convened at 17.35pm

<b>A01. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Dr Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Dr Moore introduced the Student Governor to their first Governing Body meeting. They have previously attended the Education Committee in October.  Apologies were received from Mr R Sloan.  <b>A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>  The Chair reminded those present to declare at the commencement of the meeting any conflict of interest held in matters to be discussed. No interests were disclosed.  <b>A03. MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING</b>  The minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held on 02 September 2025 were reviewed for accuracy and unanimously approved as an accurate record on proposal from Mr Sloan and seconded by Mrs G Campbell.  <b>A04. MATTERS ARISING</b>  Nothing to note  <b>A05. CHAIR'S BUSINESS</b>  Dr Moore informed members that the Skills funding has now been reinstated. The letter will be shared with members on SharePoint. He thanked members for the actions agreed at the previous Board meeting.	Mrs Foster
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An update on the College Employers Forum (CEF) Constitution final draft will be shared at the next Governing Body meeting. It is anticipated it will be available at that point. It has been shared with DfE colleagues as requested.

Dr Moore is awaiting a response from the Department regarding two Governing Body members re-appointments for a second term. All requisite information had been previously sent to DfE on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and the matter raised again with DfE colleagues on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025. It was also raised again on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This will be closely monitored and the risk register updated if required.

Information regarding the proposed Further Education 16-18 legislation will be sent to members ahead of the next Governing Body meeting, scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025, at which an Education Department Representative will attend to brief Board members.  
*Mr Harkness joined the meeting at 17.54.*

Mrs Foster

Dr Moore recently met with Belfast Metropolitan College's new Governing Body Chair.

Finally, members were informed that the FE Director will be attending the Governing Body meeting on 14 April 2026.

#### **A06. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

Dr Moore thanked Mr Bronte and Mr Young for the attending the meeting.

Mr Bronte highlighted key points of the report to members which includes a new Electric Vehicle scheme for college staff to avail of. Over 600 staff have completed mandatory sustainability training in 24/25. He also shared with members that the College had recently been accredited with a Silver Award in Sustainability.

Mr Young provided an update on the initiatives the College is undertaking to improve energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.

*Mrs Kelly joined the meeting at 18:13*

Members had the opportunity to ask some questions.

Dr Moore thanked Mr Young and Mr Bronte for their report.

*Mr Young and Mr Bronte left the meeting at 18.24*

#### **A07. PRINCIPAL AND CEO'S BUSINESS**

Mrs L Campbell informed members that a press release will be issued this week in relation to the appointment of a contractor for the new Newry Innovation Centre.

Mrs L Campbell confirmed a budget sustainability workshop is scheduled for 1 Dec 2025 for the Principals Group and NIFON to meet with DfE discuss budget sustainability for 2025-2028. Following this a CEF meeting will be held which Mrs L Campbell will be chairing.

#### **A08. COMMITTEE MINUTES – FOR ADOPTION**

The following committee minutes were presented to the members

- a) AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 13 MAY 2025**
- b) STAFFING COMMITTEE 20 MAY 2025**

**c) EDUCATION COMMITTEE 03 JUNE 2025**

**d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 10 JUNE 2025**

These were taken as read and approved as an accurate record on proposal from Mr McMurray and seconded by Mrs Singleton.

*Dr Finnigan left the meeting at 18:30.*

**A09. COMMITTEE MINUTES –FOR REVIEW**

The following committee minutes were presented to the members for review.

**a) AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**b) STAFFING COMMITTEE 07 OCTOBER 2025**

**c) EDUCATION COMMITTEE 21 OCTOBER 2025**

Each Committee Chair gave an update on what was discussed at each of the recent committee meetings.

**A10. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT (RTTCWG)**

Mrs L Campbell and Ms McGuigan took members through the report. There were no changes to the draft report. Members noted the uncorrected misstatement audit opinion regarding depreciation of assets. Work has already been undertaken to re-life assets within the College.

It was confirmed that all strategic objectives set internally for the College for 24/25 had been met.

The report was approved by Mrs McCaffrey and seconded by Mr McMurray.

Dr Moore thanked Ms McGuigan and the team for their hard work in completing this document.

**A11. BUDGET ALLOCATION UPDATE 2025-2026**

Ms McGuigan informed members that funding which had previously been removed from the College relating to Skills Competition has recently been reinstated.

**A12. CYBER ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026**

Members noted the report.

**A13. DEPARTMENT OF THE ECONOMY MID-YEAR ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2025-2026**

Mrs L Campbell took members through the report. Members noted this.

**A14. ENROLEMENT UPDATE 2025-2026**

Ms Shackels provided members with a brief summary of the Report. Enrolment for 25-26 has been positive to date and it was reported that all related College Development Plan targets were on target for achievement. Members had the opportunity to discuss the Report and thanked Ms Shackels for her Report.

#### **A15 EDUCATION REPORT CARD (ERC) 2024-2025**

Ms McGuigan took members through the report card. This final report has been submitted for 24/25 to the Department. This includes four aims and Key Performance Indicators relating to the College Development Plan. Retention of students across the college increased in 24/25.

#### **A16 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2024-2025**

Members noted the document and thanked Ms Shackels for her Report. Members had the opportunity to discuss the content of the Report.

Dr Moore placed on record his thanks to Ms Shackels and her team for the Report. Dr Moore requested this item be added as an annual standing agenda item.

Mrs Foster

#### **A17. ICS EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW FINAL SECTOR REPORT**

Dr Moore drew Members' attention to the contents of the Report, which had been circulated previously. Members confirmed that they were satisfied with the information presented and formally endorsed the Report.

Mrs Foster will send confirmation to John Nugent (now) Chair of the Steering Group established to liaise with DfE, once it had been confirmed that this Final Report had been presented to and considered at all College Boards.

Mrs Foster

Dr Moore will bring the points raised by members relating to areas of improvement within the report, back to the Governing Bodies Chairs Group.

Dr Moore.

#### **A18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to note

#### **A19. REVIEW OF MEETING**

Members were content with the Governing Body meeting.

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Governing Body meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 17:30 in Boardroom Newry West Campus.

The meeting concluded at 19.40

Mrs O'Hare and Ms Corhea left the meeting at 19.40

CH

DATE

16/12/25

