

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2025 at 17.30 IN BOARDROOM NEWRY WEST CAMPUS.

<p>PRESENT: 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 Mrs Geraldine Campbell (TEAMS) Mrs Patricia McCaffrey (TEAMS) Mr Gary McMurray Mr Nick Harkness Ms Celine Maria Corhea (TEAMS)</p>	<p>IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Joanne McGuigan, Interim Director of Finance & Planning Mr Raymond Sloan, Director of Client Services Mr Sam Dempster (Education NI) Agenda Item 03 Mrs Elaine Nesbitt Acting Assistant Director of HE and Quality Mrs Emma Foster Secretary to the Governing Body</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum Mrs Sharon O’Hare</p>
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The meeting convened at 17.30

<p>A01. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ms Shackels and Mrs O’Hare. Dr Moore thanked Mr Dempster for attending the meeting.</p> <p><i>Mr Harkness arrived at 17.32</i></p> <p>A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A03 Further Education 16-18 Legislation Presentation</p> <p>Mr Dempster took members through the presentation. He advised that the consultation is still at an early stage and that further work is required and discussions are still ongoing. Members were informed that Mr Dempster will be invited to return to a Governing Body meeting in 2026 to provide an update on the progress of the work. Mr Dempster answered any questions the members had. These included, resourcing, further stakeholder engagement, and implementation. The legislation is expected to be enacted by March 2027.</p> <p>Dr Moore thanked Mr Dempster for his attendance at the meeting and answering members questions.</p> <p><i>Mr Dempster left the meeting at 18:05</i></p> <p>A14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>ETI Update <i>This item was brought forward in the meeting</i></p> <p>Mrs Nesbitt provided a detailed verbal update on the College’s recent ETI inspection in relation to special educational needs provision, the recommendations and next steps. This would include a new inspection framework and a proposal for a Further Education</p>	<p>Mrs Foster</p>
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inspection model. Members were advised that a full paper will be presented to the next Education Committee on 27 January 2026

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions which Mrs Nesbitt answered.

Ms Celine Maria Corhea joined the meeting at 18:11

Mrs Nesbitt left the meeting at 18:20

A04. MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held on 25 November 2025 were reviewed for accuracy and unanimously approved as an accurate record on proposal from Mrs Kelly and seconded by Mrs Whiteside.

A05. MATTERS ARISING

Nothing to note.

A06. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Dr Moore informed members of the appointment of the new Acting Director of Further Education (Ms Kathryn McCamley) who has taken up the role within DfE from 15 December 2025. They will also be invited to attend a Governing Body meeting in the near future.

Dr Moore also informed members he and Mrs L Campbell will attend the College's Accountability Review meeting scheduled for 03 March 2026 with DfE Officials.

Finally Dr Moore reminded members to notify Mrs Foster of any updates to their Register of Interests so that it can be kept up to date.

A07. PRINCIPAL AND CEO'S BUSINESS

Mrs L Campbell informed members that the Annual Report and Accounts were laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly on 09 December 2025 and these have been uploaded to the College website on 10 December 2025.

Members were also informed that Ms McGuigan plans to retire from her role as Acting Director of Finance and Planning, (and she will leave Southern Regional College) on 31 March 2026.

Mrs L Campbell thanked Ms McGuigan for her work in the role and the support provided not only to her but her team and other members of staff. Mr McMurray and Dr Moore endorsed these remarks also.

A08. POLICY REVIEW

a) Eyesight Policy and Proposal Paper

Members agreed to make this policy redundant. This is now included within the Healthcare scheme policy introduced into the College in November 2025.

Mrs Foster

A09. COMMITTEE MINUTES – FOR ADOPTION

The following committee minutes were presented to members for information:

a) Audit and Risk Committee 23 September 2025

The minute were reviewed for accuracy and unanimously approved as an accurate record on proposal from Mr Harper and seconded by Mr Fitzsimons.

A10. COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

- a) Education Committee**
- b) Audit and Risk Committee**
- c) Staffing Committee**
- d) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Members approved the Annual Reports.

A11. Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

Members agreed the revised Audit and Risk Terms of Reference. Mrs Foster will upload these to the College website.

Mrs Foster

A12. COMMITTEE MINUTES –FOR REVIEW

The following draft committee minutes were presented to members for review:

- a) Finance and General Purposes Committee 04 November 2025**
- b) Audit and Risk Committee 18 November 2025**

Each Committee Chair gave an update on what was discussed at each of the recent committee meetings. These were taken as read and nothing further was added.

A13. STRATEGY DAY UPDATE 17 FEBRUARY 2026

Mrs L Campbell provided a verbal update on what will be covered at this Strategy Day. Areas included will be the College Risk Register and a Finance update. Mrs L Campbell stated that any areas members would like covered to be emailed to Mrs Foster by 16 January 2026.

A section of this Strategy Day will also be used for the Chair to discuss with members feedback which arose from the recent anonymous governor reviews of the functioning of the Governing Board.

It is intended the Strategy Day will be held at the Portadown Campus.

A14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Letter from NIAO 15 December 2025.**

Mrs L Campbell informed members that Mr Brian O'Neill (NIAO) would no longer be the College's Engagement Director and his replacement Tomas Wilkinson would be taking on the role from 01 January 2026.
Members noted the letter.

A15. REVIEW OF MEETING

Dr Finnigan invited members to the upcoming ICAS conference held in the College which her and her team will be hosting over a three day period from 29th-31st January 2026.

Mrs Foster will send a link to members should they wish to purchase tickets to the conference.

The Chair notified members that he is still awaiting information from the Department regarding Mrs Singleton and Mr McMurray's Second Term of appointment as Governor. Several communications have been sent to DfE colleagues to progress this matter. Once this information is received the members will be notified. Dr Moore thanked Dr Milner on this her final Board meeting prior to her departure, for her service as a Governor over the past four years, at Southern Regional College and also for her contribution as Safeguarding Officer. Dr Milner thanked members for making her time as a Governor enjoyable and extended her best wishes to the members and to the College.

Discussions will take place regarding the appointing of a new Safeguarding Officer and Dr Moore will update the Board in due course once a decision has been reached.

Mrs Foster confirmed all members had completed their mandatory training and Dr Moore thanked members for completing these in a timely manner.

Dr Moore thanked members for their attendance at the meeting.

Flowers and a card were presented to Dr Milner. A gift will also be delivered to Mrs T Strachan (whose term as Governor ended over the summer period).

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Governing Body meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2026 at 17:30 in the Boardroom, Banbridge Campus.

The meeting concluded at 19.16

Dr Finnigan and Ms Corhea left the meeting at 19.18

CHAIR

[REDACTED]

DATE 14.04.26

Mrs Foster