



## WM College Board Meeting Monday 02 October, Crowndale Rd

	<b>Appointed Governors</b>			
1	Susan	Corby		Y
2	Fran	Fahey		Y
3	Neil	Garner		Y
4	June	Jarrett		Y
5	Samata	Khatoon		Y
6	Alexi	Marmot		Y
7	Tom	Robins		Y
8	Alice	Rubbra		Y
9	Guy	Shackle	Chair	Y
10	Jon	Sibson		Y
11	Max	Silver		Y
	<b>Nominated Governors</b>			
	Dipa	Ganguli	Principal	Y
	<b>Staff Governors</b>			
	Amanda	Blinkhorn		Y
	Monica	Kinasiewicz		Y
	<b>Student Governors</b>			
	<b>Officers Attending</b>			
	Diana	Teesdale		Y
	Richard	Dearing		Y
	Bill	Barker		Y
	<b>Others Attending</b>			
	Maria	Rosenthal	Former Principal	Y

## **Minutes:**

### **Launch of the new Year.**

#### **Welcome to the Principal (GS, MR)**

Guy Shackle (GS, Chair of governors) opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone and in particular Dipa Ganguli (DG, Principal) who had started what he hoped to be a long and successful period of employment at the College a month ago.

#### **Governors' introductions:**

“why I volunteered to be a governor, and what I have/ still want to achieve”:

Governors all contributed to this discussion:

Ideas raised:

- publicity and marketing – need for greater focus and clearer sign-posting
- develop and extend the link programme to improve and develop dialogue between staff, learners and governors
- Generate monies to Improve and maintain accommodation for learners and staff

GS thanked governors for their contributions – adding that growth and change were most robust when built on the College’s solid and tested foundations - relevance and quality of provision in a welcoming and secure /safe learning environment.

DG welcomed the contributions of governors and expressed her thanks to everyone who had made her welcome since she had joined. She said she was pleased to be in a position to continue the long and proud tradition of the College as an Institute of Adult Learning. She advised that her ambition for the College was to ensure its longevity, sustainability and relevance. She looked forward to working with governors, learners and staff at the College as well as external stakeholder communities and organisations to strengthen partnerships that would help to achieve this.

Governors welcomed DG to the College and expressed their commitment to working with her to support the College’s reputation and development.

**Business:**

1i	Apologies: There were none		
1ii	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were none.</p> <p><b>Chair’s action:</b> GS advised that he had authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment for continued Insurance cover</li> <li>• Purchase of IT (Apple Mac) devices</li> </ul> <p>The Board noted this and thanked all involved for ensuring security and renewal of assets. Both items were within the 2023/24 budget parameters.</p>		
2	<p><b>Horizon / Risk and opportunity - for Strategy Day in 2024 (GS, TR)</b></p> <p>GS advised that there was a timely opportunity to review the “wider risk” horizon with the arrival of a new Principal, the development of the next Strategic Plan, and the continuing rapidity of externally driven curriculum and funding change.</p> <p>TR agreed, adding that consideration of the “wider risk” horizon would give the College a chance to consider how to build resilience to the challenges ahead.</p>		
3	<p><b>Estates Strategy Group: (GS, AM)</b></p> <p>GS introduced a paper that defined the College estate and outlined the principal focusses for the development of an Estates Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44 Crowndale Rd</li> <li>• 48 Crowndale Rd (investment property – residential accommodation)</li> <li>• Kentish Town (Leighton Place) - leased from Camden Council</li> </ul> <p>The Board recognised that the Strategy should address issues raised in the conditions survey and the capital monies and conditions available. In particular the Board recognised that further survey /maintenance /remedial work was needed to assess fire safety containment (fire doors) and evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Governors welcomed that “sustainability” would be a priority in the Strategic Plan and Estates Strategy. The Board noted that progress on “net zero” sustainability planning would become a condition of funding and compliance with the AoC Code of Good Governance.</p>		

<p>4</p>	<p><b><u>RFSA /Queen's Square lease</u></b></p> <p>Alexi Marmot (AM) advised that greater monies should be available for distribution when the site at Queen’s Square was re-let after the Mary Ward relocation to Stratford.</p> <p>The Board noted that there would be a WM College vacancy on RFSA Board from March 2024 when AM steps down as a WM College governor.</p>		
<p>5</p>	<p><b>De-restriction of Playing Field reserves</b></p> <p>Richard Dearing introduced this item referring to a full set of background papers and advisory briefings from Buzzacott, Stone King and the Charity Commission.</p> <p><b>This proposal to de-restrict the reserves was agreed.</b></p> <p>Governors thanked all for their diligence and concern in arranging that the proposal was considered with professional –audit, legal and charity commission- advice, and after a note of searches of the college archives.</p> <p>The Board welcomed that the de-restriction would be treated as a post balance sheet event, and so evaluated as within the 2022/23 Financial Statements judgements.</p>		
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Finance Matters (MS, RD)</b></p> <p>Max Silver (MS, Chair of the FPDC Committee) was pleased to inform governors that Richard Dearing (RD, VP Finance) had accepted a permanent position at the College.</p> <p>He advised that pay for College staff would present challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% of income allocated on pay was greater than sector norms</li> <li>• 6.5% CoL not affordable as no increase on funding rates for adults</li> </ul> <p>The FPDC would consider a paper modelling different distribution options within the 2.5% part year sum included in the 2023/24 budget.</p>		
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Governor Links and PRBs (JS, DT)</b></p> <p>The Board heard from Jon Sibson JS and Diana Teesdale DT how the link scheme was an essential element of effective governance. Governors had</p>		

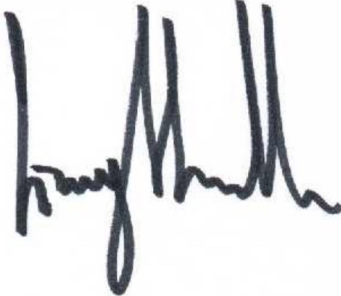
	<p>commented on this and on the insights they had gained in their introductions at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>DT advised that the forthcoming Performance Review Boards (PRBs) would present excellent opportunities for governors to develop their understanding of a curriculum or service area.</p> <p>The Clerk would circulate a schedule of the PRBs.</p>		
8	<p><b>Strategic Plan - process and key steps (DG and MR)</b></p> <p>Draft to Board in December followed by consultation with College communities. Further consideration and proposals for consultation at Strategy Day on 27 January.</p>		
9	<p><b>The year ahead: outlook - Strategy and Governance (GS)</b></p> <p><u>Governor Recruitment.</u></p> <p>Peridot: Audit and Finance (2 positions to replace vacancies of Barbara Byrne and Paul Smith). The Board welcomed that Peridot Partners (DfE’s agent) was helping with the recruitment and thanked all involved for securing this service.</p> <p>WM College: 2 applicants from summer 2023 recruitment advertising (in anticipation of Alexi Marmot stepping down in March 2024)</p> <p>GS advised that he would step down as Chair in March 2024. Governors noted that in the absence of any internal (current board member) applicants, recruitment for a Chair should start as soon as practicable and would be led by “backbenchers” and reporting to Search Committee and Board.</p>		

**Note: The Strategy Session will now take place on Saturday 27 January (10:30 – 14:30) (post meeting update: Saturday 03 February)**

**Committee Cycle – Autumn term dates:**

Audit	18 October	Internal reports 2022/23 (IAS, JISC cyber security)
CQSC	15 November	SAR, CIP

Audit	29 November	Financial Statements Audit: AC Annual Report/ Opinion
FPDC	04 December	Financial Statements – Members' Report
Board	14 December	Financial Statements, SAR, Strategic Plan



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 14 December 2023

Guy Shackle, Chair of Governors