

## SOUTH THAMES COLLEGES GROUP CORPORATION

### Minutes of Corporation Meeting 14 May 2019 held at Merton College London Road, Morden. SM4 5QX

*(All resolutions passed were the unanimous decision of the Governors present unless otherwise stated)*

<b>Meeting Title</b>	Corporation	
<b>Date</b>	14 May 2019	
<b>Members present</b>	Mr G. Allen – Chair Dr J. Brumwell Ms K. Driver Mr R. Foulston Cllr. B. Fraser Cllr S. Gordon	Ms J. Murphy Mr P. Mayhew-Smith - Group Principal / CEO Mr N. Ratnavel Mr M. J. Stone Mr G Willett
<b>In Attendance</b>	Ms C. Arnold Ms J. Gaukroger Ms S. Horrell Mr J. Pemberton-Billing Mr A. Slade Mr M. Tweedale Mrs H. Meredith	-J2J Partnership Ltd -Consultant J2J Partnership Ltd - Vice-Principal, Business and Student Services - Principal, Carshalton and Merton Colleges - Principal, South Thames College - Principal, Kingston College - Head of Governance
<b>Key Meeting Outcomes</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
1.1	Apologies were received from Mr Azah, Mr Bristow, Mr Byrne-Price, Mr Cheema, Mr Gilbert, Mr Hicks, Dr McSherry and Dr Reid. Mr Hossain's resignation as a Governor had been accepted. Apologies were also received from the Deputy Principal who normally attends Corporation meetings. The Head of Governance confirmed that the meeting was quorate.	
1.2	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> Interests previously declared by Governors were noted. Governors confirmed that they did not have any other new pecuniary or other interest in any item on the agenda.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>REPORT FROM SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>	
2.1	Before the arrival of Cllr Gordon, Dr Brumwell moved the adoption of the recommendations from the minutes of the Search Committee meeting of 8 May 2019 relating to the appointment of governors.	
2.2	It was <b>resolved</b> to adopt the following recommendations and note that the remaining recommendations will be brought to the July 2019 Corporation Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To accept the previously tendered resignation by Mr Hossain with effect from 7 May 2019;</li> <li>2. To Appoint John Stone as a skills based governor for a four year term of office from 14 May 2019 and that he join the Quality Learning and Standards Committee and Audit Committee;</li> <li>3. To re-appoint the following governors for a four year term of office with effect from 1st August 2019:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Janis Brumwell</li> <li>2. Rob Foulston</li> <li>3. Brenda Fraser</li> <li>4. Graham Willett.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

	<p>The Group Principal welcomed John Stone to the meeting and to join the Corporation. The Group Principal welcomed Joanna Gaukroger to the meeting to present an overview and early conclusions so far from the work on the Group Curriculum Review- the full report when finalised will be presented to the June meeting of the Quality, Learning and Standards Committee.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>GROUP CURRICULUM REVIEW</b></p> <p><b>Presentation ( Confidential)</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>A LEVEL OPTIONS</u></b></p>
4.1	<p>Mike Tweedale, Principal Kingston College, presented a very detailed options paper to the Corporation for decision on the future of the delivery of A Level provision at Kingston College. The context for the decision was that despite significant action and interventions over the last 5 years since the College's first Minimum Standards Letter (MLP) from the ESFA, a consistent improvement in A Level performance has not been achieved. The Corporation was therefore asked to consider whether or not to continue to deliver A Level Provision at Kingston College.</p>
4.2	<p>A five-year analysis of A Level provision at Kingston College shows a pattern of falling enrolment and achievement rates. Despite significant interventions during this period, A Level performance has not consistently or significantly improved and this adversely affects the students' outcomes as well as the College's and the STC Group's achievement rate position. The proportion of students achieving high grades is of particular concern, especially at A2 where the achievement of high grades is directly related to competitive entry to the higher performance Universities. A Level enrolment and retention numbers have significantly decreased over the last two years and enrolment indications suggest this trend will continue.</p>
4.3	<p>The paper offered explanations as to why the intervention actions taken have failed. Governors noted that A Level course structure and content have also changed dramatically in the last few years and that new Linear A Levels mean that exam capability is even more important.</p>
4.4	<p>Governors asked what the impact of closing this provision would be for current and future students. The Principal, Kingston College confirmed that the alternative would be for them to study with very good provision elsewhere or to study BTEC qualifications at Kingston College which achieve excellent results with 20% of BTEC students at Kingston College achieving triple distinction stars.</p>
4.5	<p>Governors asked how many students are currently studying A Levels at Kingston, noting that there are 80 in Year 1 and 65 going into Year 2.</p>
4.6	<p>Taking into account the very poor A level results governors agreed that closing the provision is morally the right decision for the students. The Chair of the Quality Committee expressed the view that after all the interventions put into place and all the hours put in and the hand-wringing the progress being made by students is woeful and that the decision to close the provision is the right decision due to the lack of quality of provision for these students. Governors agreed with this view.</p>
4.7	<p>It was <b><u>unanimously resolved</u></b> to adopt the recommendation by the Kingston College Principal, supported by the Senior Postholder Group (SPG) to close A Level provision at Kingston College and to close the A1 Level programme from September 2019 and end the A2 Level programme in July 2020 in light of its continuing poor performance.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next scheduled Corporation Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 July at 7:00pm at South Thames College.</p>

	The Open Business was followed by a Confidential Session.			
<b>Action points</b>		<b>Who</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Signed off</b>
1.	Remaining recommendations from Search Committee 8 May to go to July Corporation Meeting	HoG	End June 2019	
	<p>The Open Business of the meeting closed at 7.38pm</p> <p>Signed:..... Date:.....</p>			