

**South Lanarkshire College  
Board of Management Meeting  
Principal's Update  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Present** J McCartney, S McKillop, S Dillett, M Bingham,  
C Ferguson, P Devenny, R Ralston, I Todd, L McTavish,  
D Burnett, K Anderson, K McInnes

**Apologies** C McDowall, J Evans, B Johnstone

**In Attendance** A Allan, K McAllister, A Martin

**1. Declarations of Members' Interests**

Mr Anderson, Mr Dillett and Mr Todd declared their membership of a Trust.

Mrs McTavish declared her position as Chair of The Lanarkshire Board.

**2. Minute of Previous Meeting**

**3. Principal's Update**

The Principal indicated that we would likely reach a total of 56,000 Wsums, 3000 of which were additional ESF.

The Lanarkshire Board

The Principal indicated that the College had sent drafts of:

- The Lanarkshire Board's Constitution
- Committee Structure and Membership
- and The Financial Memorandum between The Lanarkshire Board and South Lanarkshire College

to the Lanarkshire Board for comments.

Construction

The Principal drew members' attention to a number of matters within the Constitution. He also indicated that at future meetings of The Lanarkshire Board, members from South Lanarkshire College would join the Board at the appropriate point rather than leaving when discussion turned to New College Lanarkshire.

A number of sections, 5.1; 11.5; 19.4; 22.1; 22.2 were highlighted as being of key importance to South Lanarkshire College.

Mr Ralston drew members' attention to the inconsistency in a number of cross references. The Principal explained that those were part of the original document and would be corrected.

Mr Gallacher spoke in support of the documentation.

### Committee Structure

The Principal took members through the draft Committee Structure and Membership of The Lanarkshire Board.

He explained that all members of The Lanarkshire Board would meet in discussion regarding funding.

In addition to the individual committees which will deal with the business of New College Lanarkshire, there will be one spanning Lanarkshire Committee, which will be the Development, Curriculum, Student Affairs and Outcomes Committee.

This Committee will be chaired by Rosemary McKenna who has visited South Lanarkshire College and met with the College Management Team.

This Committee will meet 5 times per year. On three occasions, the business will be confined to that of New College Lanarkshire, and on two occasions it will focus on activities across both colleges.

### Financial Memorandum

Discussion took place in regard to the draft Financial Memorandum between The Lanarkshire Board and South Lanarkshire College.

Mrs McTavish explained that there is a different format for the operation of The Lanarkshire Board than that which operates in Glasgow. There is also different legislation that applies to Lanarkshire.

Mrs McTavish made it clear that she did not wish there to be a Chief Executive in Lanarkshire.

The format that had been sent out by the SFC was a standard format and didn't necessarily apply to Lanarkshire. Discussion took place in regard to the appropriate use of public money.

Mr Ralston indicated that in paragraph 28 on External Audit, SFC should read SLC.

Discussion took place in regard to ONS. Mr McAllister explained that we could transfer funds to the Arms Length Foundation which resulted from Commercial Income, as long as we had a surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> March and that we had the cash to support the surplus. Mr Ralston indicated any transfer would take place within the financial year that it occurred in.

Following a question from Mr Todd, there was discussion re what the procedure would be if we underspent on our core SFC funding.

### Appointment to The Lanarkshire Board

The Principal drew members' attention to the process of appointment of members of The Lanarkshire Board explaining that Kirsten Oswald and Brian Gilchrist (of New College Lanarkshire) had both been involved in producing materials to support the process.

### Student Support Funding

The Principal took the board through the recent correspondence on this matter in particular: Correspondence to Laurence Howells  
Response from Martin Fairbairn  
Correspondence to John Kemp  
SFC Announcement

As yet no response had been received to our letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> February to John Kemp.

The Principal highlighted key dates in regard to this issue, particularly the advice given to the Board of Management from Riona Bell on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and the discussions that took place as part of the Strategic Dialogue meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

The Board clearly took a view that this was an issue for the SFC to resolve and not for either of the Lanarkshire colleges. It appears that the SFC will suggest a “regional solution” to this issue and will make it clear that this is the only option available.

A joint board meeting with New College Lanarkshire is scheduled to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss this issue with the Scottish Government and SFC representatives.

Mr Anderson commented that it was important that we explain to the SFC that we are fixing a problem which is not of our making, but of theirs.

Mr Gallacher commented that this issue should have been resolved to a long time ago and not left to the very end of their financial year.

Ms McCartney expressed her extreme disappointment in the responses received so far from the SFC.

### Action Learning Project

Mr Allan outlined the above project. He explained the timeline of self-evaluation and improvement activity process with Education Scotland and Scottish Funding Council engaging as the year goes on.

He then went on to discuss the outcomes to date.

Ms McCartney expressed her pleasure that we were one of the colleges chosen to develop this pilot.

### Indicative Grant in Aid Allocation

Mr McAllister presented a briefing note in regard to this and explained that these were only indicative figures for the Lanarkshire Region.

Mr McKillop discussed the credit allocation to the Region and also the financial allocation. As explained at the Board of Management away day, our increase is limited to 1%. However we may have slightly less student activity than in previous years.

### New Building

The project manager's report for February 2015 was discussed and it was noted that the two areas that had been previously designated as high risk had now been reduced to medium.

The Principal explained that, although the costs had increased, the project now straddled two financial years and was now more affordable. The Principal explained the selection process for appointing the contractor and those that were involved in the process.

Mr Dillett explained the due diligence that had been in place and that the process had been fair and transparent.

### International Activity Update

Principal explained that the College was trying to re-establish its links with China and he was optimistic that we could recruit up to 30 Chinese students to study HND Construction Management in 2015/16.

Ms McCartney was very pleased that this was being re-established and that the summer schools were continuing.

The Chair drew members' attention to the Student Newsletter.

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for their attendance.