



**MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY  
HELD ON 24 APRIL 2017 AT 6.00 PM  
AT LONGSANDS ACADEMY**

**PRESENT:**

Mr K Wainwright (KW) (Chair)  
Mrs J Smith (JS) (Vice Chair)  
Mr R Carroll (RC) (CEO)  
Mr G Wright (GW)  
Mrs H Bryson (HB)  
Mr M Critcher (MCR)

Dr I Dumbelton (ID)  
Mr G Hughes (GH) (from 7.05pm)  
Mrs K Kircher (KK)  
Mr S Law (SL)  
Mrs C Lewis (CL)  
Mr A Truett (AT)

**In attendance:** Mrs M Basson (Clerk-MJB)

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Henthorne and these were accepted.

**2. Declaration of Business Interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary business interests on any agenda item.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the minutes were adopted and signed by the Chair.

**4. Minutes of the Extraordinary FGB meetings held on 8 AND 20 February 2017 and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 and Monday 20 February 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the minutes were adopted and signed by the Chair.

A Governor commented that at a governor meeting they had raised concerns relating to when staff at Ernulf would be informed of the plans to re-broker Ernulf. Clerk informed governor that this was during a meeting held on 15 March 2017 and ensured governor that their concerns will be included in the minutes from this meeting.

**5. Update of Finance Committee meeting on 22 March 2017**

GH gave a detailed summary of the Finance Committee meeting held on 22 March 2017. Governors noted the following:

- Caterlink have been appointed by SNLP to provide catering for Longsands and Ernulf sites.

**Governors questioned whether a clause had been included in the contract to amend the provision if SNLP were to increase or decrease sites.**

RC ensured governors that there was an option in the contract to opt out in the event of any changes in the future without incurring penalties.

**MJB**

Signature of Chair..... Date: .....

- CIF Bid (Condition Improvement Fund) - SNLP were successful in the CIF bid of £700k for the Ritchie Hall and Sports Hall roof work.
- MLEI (mobilizing local energy investment) update – SNLP have submitted energy data to our delivery partner 'Bouygues' and we await analysis which will show any savings we have made and this will be reported to governors once this has been received.
- GW reported a slightly better financial position than budgeted and forecast a £300k carry forward by the end of 2016-17.
- Phillip Thompkinson has been appointed as Director of Finance and Operations of SNLP and starts on 25 April 2017 on a temporary contract.
- The Expenses policy has been reviewed and updated in line with the Finance Manual and adopted by SNLP.
- Bradgate have been appointed by SNLP to provide grounds maintenance for both Ernulf and Longsands site. Governors noted that there was an option in the contract to opt out in the event of any changes in the future without incurring penalties
- Budget for 2017-18 will be drawn up to show an accurate financial position of SNLP and governors noted a deficit budget will be highlighted to stakeholders and the DfE at a meeting on 4 May 2017. SNLP are required to submit proposed budgets by 19 May 2017.
- GW summarised to say that many other academies are in a similar financial position.

## 6. Pupil Disciplinary procedures

RC informed governors that SNLP followed the disciplinary policy and procedures at a recent disciplinary committee where the decision was upheld to permanently exclude an Ernulf student.

## 7. Frequently asked questions for School Leaders

In advance of the meeting information from the ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders) was circulated to governors outlining frequently asked questions for Teachers, Parents, School Leaders and Students regarding GCSE grading changes in 2017.

RC informed governors that it will be difficult to compare grades for GCSE results previous years as they will be graded on a new scale. The results will be issued in the summer 2017 for individual schools but results to how all schools performed will not be issued until October/November 2017.

### **Governors questioned whether this affected all subjects.**

RC replied to say that it was not all subjects affected.

RC informed governors that staff at Ernulf, Longsands and Prospect House worked over Easter with revision sessions and extra evenings in run up to exams to help students with revision. KW thanked all staff on behalf of governors for the extra input to support students to achieve the best possible outcomes.

## 8. Update of SNLP Proposals

Governors noted the tragic loss of Dr Sarah Miller, Science Leader at Longsands Academy. RC informed governors that Sarah was an outstanding teacher who had worked hard to improve student input and outcomes. Governors expressed their condolences to her family and those affected by this tragic loss.

RC advised governors that three part time members of staff on the Science team have agreed to work full time until the end of term to cover.

RC informed governors that Bedford Free School had been given a pre-opening agreement for provision of 600 places for 11-16 year old students. Governors noted that there is no agreement with the DfE for curriculum or location and the earliest it would open is 2019.

Governors had received in advance of the meeting a statement from KW - Chair of Governors regarding SNLP update of Ernulf, to be circulated to staff at Ernulf Academy. Governors comments were welcomed.

RC advised governors that Johnathan Lewis, DfE, had confirmed that no sponsor has come forward at this stage for Ernulf and SNLP remains responsible for education provision of all its students in September 2017.

**Governors had a confidential discussion regarding Ernulf financial resources.**

RC informed governors that Tim Coulson, Regional Schools Commissioner has been appointed to become a CEO of a MAT in Suffolk from September 2017.

RC informed governors that Hazel Belchamber, Local Authority had met with SNLP CEO and had stated that St Neots does not have a capacity issue and questions as to why Bedford Free School has been issued with a pre-opening agreement from the DfE.

A meeting is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> May with SNLP RC (CEO) and KW (Chair of Governors), Hazel Belchamber (0-19 school placements local Authority), Johnathan Lewis (Deputy Director Regional Schools Commissioner - DfE) to discuss what implications submitting a deficit budget has and future steps for SNLP.

**Governors questioned how much the DfE invest into new Free Schools.**

KW informed governors that figures suggest that new Free Schools can receive £20m.

Governors discussed that as there is no agreement of location of the Bedford Free School, it is unknown whether funding would come from Cambridgeshire or Bedfordshire Authority. Governors questioned why SNLP could not access funding support when there is money available from the DfE.

RC advised governors that the statement circulated to governors prior to this meeting regarding SNLP consideration of the future of Ernulf is to be circulated to all SNLP staff. Ernulf staff briefing is planned for tomorrow 25 April 2017 and Longsands staff briefing is planned for Wednesday 26 April 2017.

**Governors suggested that the statement may raise a number of questions from staff.**

KW agreed that SNLP can expect questions and speculation and a strategy should be in place to respond. RC advised that the statement includes the facts of what SNLP know at this time and a press statement has been prepared in conjunction with the statement that SNLP aim to continue with provision for all its 2500 students. RC advised that he as CEO should be the point of contact and asked that questions were directed to him to respond accordingly.

**Governors questioned when the 7 year period starts from with the EfA**

KW advised that it started from when we informed the DfE that we wish to break away from the EfA funding agreement.

**Governors questioned what is SNLP responsibility regarding education provision for accepting new students during the tie in period.**

KW replied to say that the 7 year period will ensure that SNLP is tied in for education provision for all current SNLP students up until aged 18.

**Governors questioned whether if only 68 admissions had been agreed for September 2017, where do the rest of the students go.**

RC replied to say that Longsands was currently oversubscribed and therefore Ernulf admissions could increase.

RC informed governors that 68 admissions to Ernulf was not viable and SNLP need financial support to continue. Governors noted that the student image at Ernulf was vital for its identity in dealing with future competition and advised that the student school uniform be implemented.

**Governors questioned whether the government elections in 2017 would have any impact on the government plans for education provision.**

RC stated that until future plans are advised SNLP will continue to make decisions based on the current situation.

**Governors had a confidential discussion regarding staffing at Ernulf Academy.**

GH joined the meeting.

KW informed governors that RC and KW are communicating with organisations to find options for a business solution.

**Governors questioned why the DfE has not taken over the running of Ernulf from SNLP.**

KW informed governors that the DfE has no sponsors coming forward and therefore no alternative option at present.

Governors discussed planned housing developments in the local area in the Ernulf catchment on Loves Farm 2/Wintringham Park and this could increase Ernulf admissions in the future creating further capacity.

**Governors questioned that in view of the government proposal for all schools/academies to be part of a MAT, was Longsands at risk as a standalone academy if Ernulf was not part of SNLP.**

KW informed governors there are other standalone academies in the same position as Longsands would be and are vulnerable to be taken over by another MAT. Governors agreed that it is favourable for SNLP to remain a MAT and that steps are being made to ensure this for a successful future for all SNLP learners.

KW informed governors that SNLP are communicating with local primary schools to recruit to SNLP to be part of a MAT

**Governors questioned what progress had been made to sell some of the land on the Ernulf site to raise capital.**

KW reminded governors that the governing body had voted against this in the past as it is a short term solution and KW is looking into other options to find solutions. Governors suggested that in view of the current situation SNLP should re-consider its options.

**Governors questioned whether we are able to sell off assets in view of the re-brokering of Ernulf.**

KW informed governors that we can but would need EfA agreement.

**Governors questioned how is SNLP going to continue with the Ernulf provision with no financial support and the prospect of loss of more staff.**

RC reported that SNLP will seek advice and support from the DfE and LA and at the meeting on 4 May 2017 and hopes to have a better outlook after this meeting.

**Governors had a confidential discussion regarding Bedford Free School provision for students aged 16-18.**

RC stated that SNLP has a responsibility to our staff, students and community to inform them of the situation with Ernulf. SNLP will send a positive message that we want to continue to provide the best provision for all its learners in the future.

**9. Trust Structure – Final Steps**

Governors noted that the new SNLP structure is now in place and the Trust Board will consist of RC, KW, JS, GW and RH with spaces for the Chairs of the LGCs (Local Governing Committees). i.e. Ernulf and Longsands. The Trust Board will hold its first meeting on 3 May 2017.

*Clerks note: The Trust Board meeting was re-arranged for 10 May 2017 following the meeting taking place on 4 May 2017 with the LA and DfE which would allow the board to be better informed of direction for SNLP.*

**Governors questioned that as some governors were no longer Trustees would that mean they would not have a vote regarding future SNLP decisions.**

RC informed governors that the LGC meetings would include LGC agenda items with a joint SNLP feedback section.

KW reassured governors that the LGCs would be party to discussions at LGC meetings and the Chairs would report to the Trust Board to make the decision on behalf of SNLP.

Notice of resignation as a trustee of the St Neots Learning Partnership with effect from 9.00pm on Monday 24 April 2017 were received and signed from: AT, GH, MCr, HB, KK, CL, SL and ID.

The LGCs will meet on 20 and 22 June 2017 where Chairs will be appointed.  
Membership of local community governors are:  
Longsands LGC – HB, MCr, GH, KK, SL, ID  
Ernulf LGC – CL, RH, AT, JS

Clerk to inform Companies House and update Edubase to take account of these changes in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook.

**MJB**

**10. Any other business**

RC informed governors that the SLT team will be sending out RAG statements and milestones to governors and should arrange a date to carry out the relevant scrutiny visit. Governors to send the scrutiny visit reports to the SLT and Headteacher for approval. The Clerk must receive all scrutiny visits for presentation no later than 10 days prior to the LGC meetings due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017.

**ALL**

Governors noted that the scrutiny visits for Special Educational Needs at Longsands and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare including Safeguarding at Ernulf had no responsible governor allocated. Governors were invited to volunteer in carrying out these visits in the interim of governor vacancies. ID agreed to complete the Longsands scrutiny visit and CL agreed to complete the Ernulf scrutiny visit.

**ID  
CL**

Clerk to circulate key dates and scrutiny visit schedule to governors and SLT.

**MJB**

RC reported to governors that the Sixth Form SIP would be presented at the FGB meeting on 12 July 2017. Clerk to inform Mark Taylor, Head of Sixth Form.

**MJB**

**Governors had a confidential discussion regarding “Stageworks”**

**11. Date of Next Meeting: Trust Board Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Trust Board meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**The meeting closed at 8.20p.m.**