

**Minutes of Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday, 17 September 2007
5.00 pm**

Present:

Trevor Perks, Sue Ackroyd, Robert Brandley, Gail Elhinn, Lynton Golds, Lyn Kemp, Kay Tattam, Peter McMullen, Sophie Elliott, Peter Philpot, Russell Adfield

In attendance:

Helen Key (Vice Principal, AS), Elizabeth King (Vice Principal, SS), Fiona Wright (ESCC), Simon Sheppard (ESCC), David Greaves (Business Manager)
Kathryn Archer (minutes)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION	BY WHOM/WHEN
<p>1. The Sixth Form : a pre agenda special item (ESCC Representatives to attend meeting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R Brandley informed Governors that following the email sent this pre agenda item had been added. L Golds will start, D Greaves will give financial information and both Fiona Wright and Simon Sheppard from ESCC are present to advise on behalf of the LA. • Documents were distributed highlighting the current issues faced within the 6th Form. L Golds informed Governors that when she started the 6th Form was given 2 years to improve and those 2 years have now come and gone and there are still serious issues. The key issues were run through as summarised at the top of the document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Despite our best efforts student numbers have not increased sufficiently. ii) Despite countless curriculum/exam board changes there has been no positive change in recruitment / retention figures and KS5 is being subsidised by KS3/4. iii) A broad range of courses are offered but therefore resources are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

	<p>spread even further with group sizes averaging at 7/ 8 students per subject.</p> <p>iv) Government funding is changing and will be based on recruitment and retention, achievement & attainment; therefore meaning SHCC will receive even less funding that at present at an estimated approximate cut of 25-30%.</p> <p>v) Marketing has been exceptional as has the quality of Teaching & Learning but this has not resulted in a sufficient shift in interest / support from parents / students.</p> <p>vi) We are in an unfortunate geographical position with Sussex Downs and other providers in Brighton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the 6th Form currently uses 20% of the funding received by SHCC but is only allocated 16%, therefore using up valuable resources from KS3 & 4. • The opportunities and issues were run through as stated on the document whilst it was noted that this is a working document. • It was noted that a suspension will allow time to continue to explore the issues and consult widely with stakeholders. • D Greaves distributed documents outlining the financial forecast following the cut in funding for the 6th Form from 2008/09 for the next 5 years. • F Wright gave governors some context about the position SHCC is in and it was noted that the LSC considers that for a sixth form to be viable it needs a minimum of 180 students, SHCC currently only has 152 and has not increased this number for the last few years. It was agreed that the figures gave a disappointing projection looking at the next 3-5 years. • It was agreed that the increase in opportunity for students in larger 6th Form providers cannot be matched at SHCC as well as the opportunity for vocational learning which a number of current KS4 students are already in and therefore will want to continue. It was noted here that it is a tribute to 		
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	<p>SHCC and the effectiveness of the College that students are given the opportunity to engage in alternative lines of learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Governors need to focus on the future of the 6th Form in light of the government led funding changes and their relation to retention and achievement/attainment. • Governors were asked for Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers currently specialising in KS5 may want to move on therefore making it hard for those currently in Year 12 to finish their study. It was noted that we will honour all those who wish to stay on and study in Year 13 next year and that teachers are employed at SHCC not just as teachers of the sixth form although it was recognised that this was a risk to be managed carefully. - The decision won't be popular how will it be managed? It was noted that regarding press etc. SHCC will be working closely with the LA to ensure it is managed effectively and the SHCC remain in control of the process and scare mongering is avoided. Governors agreed to a communication plan being drawn up in consultation with the LA. - Some employed at SHCC joined as they wanted to teach 11-18 and not 11-16 and therefore may leave starting a mass exodus of staff and students. It was noted that staffing will be an issue, however there are very few 11-18 providers in the local area and therefore there are limited alternatives. • It was noted that if closure was to be considered a full consultation with all key stakeholders, the LSC and local colleges would have to take place. • It was also noted that in the last OfSTED for SHCC the 6th Form was a major issue and despite a lot of effort and proactive work little difference has occurred. • A representative from the LA informed all present of the 2 stages: suspension and then closure after consultation. All were informed that there is no statutory process for suspending 6th Form provision but there 		
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	<p>needs to be clarity as to what happens next.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pre notice consultation period (approx. 1 term) ii. Decision following informal consultation and schedule for publishing details. iii. 6 week representation period. iv. The making of a decision (decision maker = Children's Services who have 2 months to do this). v. Implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that following this process it would be possible to be completely closed by 2009. It was questioned as to whether a few courses such as Football Development could continue but it was agreed more detail regarding funding would need to be confirmed first. • The LA will help issue a press release regarding the whole process and support the College throughout. • All were reminded of the confidentiality of the issues and the details discussed. • It was noted that the suspension of the 6th Form will not affect the College's Specialist Status but the YST and the SSAT will need to be informed at some stage. • Following discussion all were in favour of voting at the meeting to ensure all those affected are informed as quickly and efficiently as possible. • Governors voted in favour of the proposal to start proceedings to suspend the 6th Form. • L Golds informed all that following a further meeting with Personnel a timetable of events will be drawn up to ensure that staff are informed as soon as possible. 		
<p>2. Apologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No apologies were received from Peter Cook. 		