

ESCG Board Meeting MINUTES

Date	31 st March 2025	Time	14:00 – Pre-Meeting 14:45 – Break 15:00-17:00 – Meeting
Venue	Board Room (SP5119), Station Plaza, Hastings		
Chair	Ian Mehrtens		
<p>Membership – Ian Mehrtens (Chair of the Board), Rebecca Conroy (CEO & Principal), Harry Allcorn, Lionel Bunting, Kim Byford, Andy Davy, Graham Cook (Vice Chair – Resources & Operations), Becky Cooke, Izzy Cremin, Charles Dudley, Derek Richardson, Kerrith Etkin Bell, Ashley Heminway, Priscilla Kendall (Vice Chair – Curriculum & Student Experience), Geoffry Munn, Amanda Odhesa, Ann Potterton, Kirsty Reid, Shirley Watson, Jack Woodgate</p> <p>In Attendance – Hannah Caldwell (Chief Operating Officer), Nick Backstrom (Deputy Principal), Belle Howard (Director of Governance – <i>minutes</i>), Claire Alexander (Governance Assistant)</p>			
<p>Apologies: Lionel Bunting, Kim Byford, Becky Cooke.</p>			
<p>Quorum: The meeting was quorate throughout.</p>			

#	Item	Action
PRE-MEETING DISCUSSION		
-	<p>FUTURE GAZING 14:02</p> <p>0.1 The Implications of Devolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to recent committee level discussions throughout the spring term, the CEO & Principal shared additional context on the current devolution proposal for the Sussex Region. This included an overview of the anticipated devolution structure, broader implications for the FE sector and a consideration of the key risks and opportunities for the College. Governors noted that consultation on the Sussex devolution proposal was due to close on 13th April 2025. A single College response would be submitted by the CEO & Principal by the end of the week. A further update would also be shared at the next meeting. <p>Jack Woodgate and Izzy Cremin joined the meeting at 14:28.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors considered the key consultation questions, with discussion themes as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to leverage key insights and best practice from other colleges who had previously been impacted by a devolution process. The need to better understand how funding would be distributed between the unitary authorities, with particular consideration for students travelling from outside the Sussex area, implications arising from variations in population density across the region and the challenges associated with fragmented funding. The importance of rapidly establishing relationships with key points of contact within the Mayoral Combined Authority. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The strategic implications of the as yet unknown location of the new mayoral office, as well as broader implications for key geographical areas across the county, e.g. urban, rural and coastal locations. ○ The need to ensure that the student experience remains at the heart of decision making, particularly with regards to matters related to infrastructure, travel costs, rural isolation, social deprivation, distance learning, high and complex needs etc. ○ The risks associated with 'distraction' for both the local authorities and the College. ○ The challenges arising from increased levels of competition for funding. ○ The opportunity for the College to advocate for communities within East Sussex and therefore be well positioned as a key strategic provider in meeting local skills needs. ○ The need to promote the College's unique selling point as a strategic partner and therefore proactively shape any resultant solutions related to the skills agenda. ○ The importance of engaging with students on the devolution agenda, particularly in discussions with prospective mayoral candidates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 0.1.1 – Cascade a copy of the Devolution Presentation and related supporting documents to Board Members. • Action 0.1.2 – Draft and submit a response to the consultation on the Sussex Devolution proposal. <p>0.2 The meeting briefly adjourned at 14:57.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>RC/HC</p>
1. ROUTINE AND STANDING ITEMS		
1.1	<p>WELCOME, APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 15:06</p> <p>1.1.1 The Chair of the Board opened the meeting at 15:06 with a warm welcome to colleagues. The Chair particularly welcomed the new Student Governor for Hastings & Ore Valley, Harry Allcorn.</p> <p>1.1.2 Apologies were received and accepted from Kim Byford, Lionel Bunting and Becky Cooke.</p> <p>1.1.3 There were no new declarations of interest received.</p> <p>1.1.4 The Chair noted that further to ongoing efforts, the volume of meeting papers had been significantly reduced for this meeting.</p>	
1.2	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 15:09</p> <p>1.2.1 Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors considered the minutes from the last meeting on 12th December 2024. • Governors agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of what was discussed. 	
1.3	<p>MATTERS ARISING 15:09</p> <p>1.3.1 Governors noted that all actions arising from the previous meeting had been completed.</p> <p>1.3.2 Governors also noted that a further update on the Estate Transformation Programme would be shared at the next meeting. This would focus upon plans to re-phase the delivery approach to raise additional funds for the project, through the disposal of discrete parcels of land.</p>	

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2. STRATEGIC ITEMS		
2.1	<p>ESCG STRATEGIC PLAN 15:11</p> <p>2.1.1 Final Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO & Principal explained that the ESCG Strategic Plan had been updated following the recent Ofsted inspection, to reflect updated language related to the new inspection framework and to include images of actual College students. Governors suggested the following minor amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reference the Institute of Technology site at the Ore Valley campus. To increase the emphasis on the College's recent Ofsted inspection outcome. Action 2.1.1.1 – Update the ESCG Strategic Plan to include the amendments suggested in Section 2.1.1 of the minutes. RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to approve the ‘Strategic Plan – 2024-25 to 2027-28’, subject to the requested amendments. <p>2.1.2 Summary Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO & Principal advised that a short, summary version of the Strategic Plan had now been developed, with a view for this to be shared with a range of stakeholders as needed. Governors noted the associated paper and suggested the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of a link to the College website. Removal of the black background for printed versions of the summary plan, to enable ease of review. Action 2.1.2.1 – Consider updating the summary version of the ESCG Strategic Plan to include the amendments suggested in Section 2.1.2 of the minutes. <p>2.1.3 Launch Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO & Principal advised that the ESCG Strategic Plan would be formally launched at an event on 25th April 2025. This would be held at the Ore Valley campus and would also include the official launch of the newly designed Institute of Technology. All Governors had been invited to attend, along with various dignitaries and key stakeholders. Action 2.1.3.1 – Provide Governor talking points for use at the Strategic Plan Launch Event on 25th April 2025. Also, ensure all attendees have name badges provided. 	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
2.2	<p>OFSTED REPORT 15:17</p> <p>2.2.1 The Deputy Principal advised that per the now published Ofsted Report, the College had been successful in securing an Overall Effectiveness grading of ‘Good’, and a ‘Strong’ judgement for the College’s Skills provision. Moving forward, an ‘Exemplary’ grading would be targeted, per the new Ofsted toolkit framework.</p>	

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	<p>2.2.2 The Board congratulated the Executive Team on this successful outcome and noted plans to adopt a ‘<i>Good & Strong</i>’ strapline to promote the College’s achievement. The CEO & Principal reflected that the mood at the College was currently buoyant, with high levels of staff confidence and a commitment to drive towards an ‘Exemplary’ grading at the next inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 2.2.2.1 – Validate with Ofsted that the College may adopt a ‘Good & Strong’ strapline in promoting its recent inspection outcome. 	NB
2.3	<p>COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES 15:21</p> <p>2.4.1 Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ARaC Committee Chair advised that a key focus of the last meeting was the recent review of the Internal and External Audit services, with a recommendation for Board approval due for consideration later in the meeting. <p>2.4.2 Capital Development Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDB Chair explained that discussions were ongoing regarding the proposed parcels of land for sale at Eastbourne and Lewes. External valuation advice had been sought, and pre-planning application work was currently underway. Recent discussions regarding the Green Centre of Excellence had included key changes to scope, format and delivery approach. <p>2.4.3 Curriculum, Skills & Quality Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CS&Q Committee Chair advised that Governors had participated in lesson observations at the Eastbourne campus, which had been well structured, with highly engaged students in attendance. Governors had also benefited from a new format CS&Q Report and undertaken an in-depth review of the SEND Master Plan. <p>2.4.3 Governance, Performance & Reputation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GP&R Committee Chair explained that moving forward, a key priority would be to commence planning for the recruitment of a Chair Designate, with a view to facilitate an extended handover period. An External Governance Review was due to be undertaken in 2025-26 and early preparations were currently in progress. <p>2.3.4 Resources, Culture & Impact Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RC&I Committee Chair advised that monthly check-in meetings with the Executive Team continued to support effective monitoring and oversight from a financial management perspective. Areas of ongoing focus had included cashflow, stabilising variable staffing costs, securing the College’s in year funding allocation and rising National Insurance costs. 	
3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS		
3.1	<p>ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT & LOCAL NEEDS DUTY 15:31</p> <p>3.1.1 Governors noted that due to the DfE deadline for publication of the Accountability Agreement & Local Needs Duty, it had been proposed that the review and approval of this key document be delegated to the CS&Q Committee, with a view for this to be subsequently ratified by the Board.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to delegate the review and approval of the Accountability Agreement & Local Needs Duty (2025) to the CS&Q Committee in the Summer Term, ahead of final ratification by the Board. Action 3.3.1.1 – Circulate a copy of the ‘Accountability Agreement & Local Needs Duty’ to the Full Board, as well as the CS&Q Committee, with a view to provide a further opportunity to gather Governor feedback. 	BH
3.2	<p>INDEPENDENCE OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE 15:32</p> <p>3.2.1 Governors considered the associated paper, which had been recommended for approval by the GP&R Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to approve the ‘Independence of the Director of Governance’ paper. 	
3.3	<p>SEND MASTER PLAN 15:32</p> <p>3.3.1 Governors considered the associated paper, which had been recommended for approval by the CS&Q Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to approve the ‘SEND Master Plan – 2024-25 to 2027-28’. 	
3.4	<p>CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE 15:32</p> <p>3.4.1 Governors considered the associated paper, which had been recommended for approval by the ARaC Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to approve the ‘Continuation of the Internal & External Audit Service’. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 3.4.1.1 – Notify the Executive Director of Finance of the outcome of the Internal & External Audit Service Review, with a view for him to communicate this to both RSM and MHA. 	BH
4. EXECUTIVE ITEMS		
4.1	<p>EXECUTIVE REPORT TO BOARD 15:35</p> <p>4.1.1 The Executive Team shared an update, which focussed on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Gazing – rather unusually, the DfE had applied an ‘affordability factor’ of two-thirds for in-year 16-19 growth funding in 2024-25. This would equate to an additional £370K for the College and included a clawback for the T Level provision, with funding due to be received in May 2025. A one-off budget grant allocation was also expected for the April-July 2025 period, to support colleges with rising staff recruitment and retention costs, which was estimated to be approximately £350K. Further to an increase in employer National Insurance contributions from April 2025, additional DfE funding would be made available to support colleges in covering approximately 80% of this additional cost. Funding rates were expected to increase by 3.78%, which would represent a reduction overall as rates for some areas would remain unchanged. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfE Curriculum & Assessment Review Report – this would be considered by the CS&Q Committee next term, with a further update to be shared at the next meeting. • Curriculum & Quality – retention and achievement levels were currently stable, with up to a 5% increase in overall achievement expected for 2024-25. • Finance & Audit – cashflow remained a key priority for the College. A limited margin for variance represented a significant pressure on operational cash throughout the year. Reasonable Assurance gradings had been secured for all audits year to date. The Follow Up Audit was currently underway, with all management actions from the prior year complete. <p>4.1.2 Governor discussion focussed on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks & Assumptions – these would need to be carefully considered for the 2025-26 budget and modelling was currently underway as part of the annual business planning process. A surplus of £3m was targeted, though this was based on a very prudent cashflow position. • Course Waiting Lists – future growth in student recruitment would need to be carefully managed to mitigate the impact of a potential ‘affordability factor’ again being applicable for the next academic year by the DfE for in-year growth funding. This created certain ethical considerations for the College as its ability to continue subsidising rising demand was being diminished. The College’s Construction provision had particularly been impacted by this issue, due to certain inherent limitations related to space and safety in its delivery, as well as lower than desired course completion levels. The Board reluctantly acknowledged the need to support a college-wide approach to consistently use waiting lists for high demand subject areas, rather than subsidising and overextending its provision delivery. • Governors expressed particular concern that adult skills funding remained the same in cash terms in 2025-26 as it was ten years ago. 	
5. INTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT		
5.1	STAFF VOICE <p>5.1.1 Staff Governor Report: ‘Seek Opportunity’ PROUD Value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the Board outlined the new approach being adopted in drafting both Staff and Student Governor reports moving forward. This would include a ‘think piece’ format and enable the facilitation of more strategic discussions by the Board. Staff Governor Reports would also be produced on rotation each term, led by an individual Staff Governor. • Governors noted that the shared theme for the spring term reports was the ‘Seek Opportunity’ College PROUD Value, framed by the following question for Staff Governors: <i>“How can the College utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to seek opportunities that further supports the professional development of staff?”</i> • A Staff Governor directed participants to the associated paper, which focussed on the following key thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff confidence, technical literacy and engagement with AI in provision delivery. ○ Opportunities for AI to be used to enhance teaching practice, reduce workload, support professional development and for the completion of mandatory training. 	16:06

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use and application of existing AI tools and resources at the College. ○ Suggested strategies for further integrating AI solutions at the College. ● Governor discussion focussed on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current staff readiness levels to engage with AI technology. ○ A specific, Executive led, AI Policy was currently under development, which would incorporate a clearly defined strategy, as well as reference current best practice and Government guidance. ○ The perspective of examining boards on the use and application of AI technology. ○ The need to further deepen and extend awareness levels of AI technology, with a particular emphasis on the key benefits to staff and their workload. ○ The need to carefully consider and mitigate against the key risks to the College arising from AI technology. ● The Board thanked the Staff Governor for their comprehensive report. 	
5.2	<p>STUDENT VOICE</p> <p>16:19</p> <p>5.2.1 Student Governor Report: 'Seek Opportunity' PROUD Value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governors also noted the following report theme question for Student Governors: <i>"How can the College utilise AI technology to seek opportunities that enhance the educational experience for students?"</i> ● The Student Governors shared the following insights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student access to AI specific courses to support skills development and strengthen applications for jobs and university places. ○ Leveraging AI to support students in their career planning and consideration of suitable further/higher education courses. ○ Applying AI technology to support students with learning difficulties and thereby enhance their educational experience. ○ AI tools could be used to automate grading, feedback and time management. ○ The need to consider the ethical implications of AI technology, particularly with regards to consent, ensuring accuracy of information and in its application to developing personalised teaching and learning support for special needs students. ● Governors received confirmation that AI content formed part of the College's Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) education provision. ● The Board thanked the Student Governors for their comprehensive report. 	
6. MEMBERSHIP		
6.1	<p>MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT UPDATE</p> <p>16:25</p> <p>6.1.1 Student Governor Appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further to the recent Student Governor recruitment campaign at the Hastings & Ore Valley campus, Harry Allcorn had been successfully elected to the Board. ● RESOLUTION: The Board ratified the appointment of Harry Allcorn as a Student Governor. 	

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6.2	BOARD & COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS 16:26 6.2.1 Committee Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed that Harry Allcorn be appointed to the Capital Development Board and thereby ensure Student Governor representation on this time limited committee. The Chair also advised that Derek Richardson had confirmed his willingness to join the Governance, Performance & Reputation Committee. RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to appoint Harry Allcorn to the Capital Development Board and Derek Richardson to the Governance, Performance & Reputation Committee. 	
7. GOVERNANCE MATTERS		
7.1	GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT UPDATE 16:27 7.1.1 Board Monitoring & Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GP&R Committee Chair presented the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) was refreshed for 2024-25. The GP&R Committee recently undertook a review of value add and impact. It was determined that the GIP remained fit for purpose and that the existing format would therefore be retained. The GIP was made up of six workstreams, which focussed on key aspects of governance practice and oversight. Three of these areas had currently been assessed with an ‘Amber’ RAG rating. Moving forward, Board led discussions would occur, targeting a different GIP focus area per meeting, to further extend and deepen levels of strategic oversight. 7.1.2 GIP Focus Area – ‘College Reputation & Community Engagement’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CEO & Principal presented a summary update on recent efforts to further strengthen the College’s reputation and outlined priority activity planned for the forthcoming period. Governors considered the following discussion questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The College Reputation & Community Engagement Master Plan was currently being drafted. What did Board Members want to see prioritised in this plan?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure there is a clearly defined target audience for the plan. To incorporate specific and measurable outcomes, with a coherent message. To celebrate the College’s key achievements, through headline statistical and factual statements, e.g. destination data. To establish the College as a preferred provider of A Level courses. To highlight key relationships with employers and other stakeholders. To reinforce the benefits of the College’s student experience, over that of local sixth form providers. To promote the College’s Higher Education provision. To actively support staff to act as College Ambassadors. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How could Board Members further develop, promote and enhance the College's reputation and community engagement approach?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To act as ambassadors for the College. ▪ To demonstrate to employers that the Board/College proactively listened to their needs and insights. ▪ To ensure that there was a tailored message for differing stakeholder types. ▪ To promote the College as an employer of choice. ▪ To actively celebrate College achievements to a range of stakeholders. ▪ To support the College in ensuring clarity of its brand offer. <p>7.1.2 GIP – Progress Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors noted the associated paper, which included a summary update on each of the six focus areas of the GIP. <p>7.1.3 Annual Governor 1:1 Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the Board shared the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No significant themes had arisen as output of conversations with Governors, with the exception of 'time'. Some Governors had raised issues that were specific to their individual needs or circumstances. ○ Overall, Governors were both engaged and encouraged by the good practice demonstrated by the Board and its strong relationships with the Executive Team. 	
7.2	<p>GOVERNANCE MEETING PLANNING</p> <p>16:41</p> <p>7.2.1 Governor Survey – Schedule of Meetings (2025-26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of Governance shared the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A suite of surveys had recently been issued to all Governors, which included questions on preferences related to meeting formats, timings and locations. ○ Survey responses would inform the development of the Schedule of Meetings for 2025-26 and would be considered by the Board and its Committees in the Summer Term. ○ The Cycle of Business was also currently under review. A recent meeting with the Executive Team had explored various options to further simplify agendas, consolidate reports and extend committee level oversight and approval powers, thereby broadening the Board's capacity for more strategic discussion. <p>7.2.2 Strategic Planning Day – 7th July 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of Governance shared the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to complexities in securing the Charleston site in Lewes, alternative locations for the Strategy Day had been explored. This would now be held offsite in Eastbourne. ○ The '<i>Implications of Local Government Devolution</i>' would be the primary agenda item for the day. 	

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7.3	GOVERNOR DEVICES 16:43 7.3.1 2025-26 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair advised that funding had been ringfenced for the next academic year to purchase new devices for all Governors. This would address the ongoing system access issues being encountered by Governors and further enhance security protocols for governance business. 7.3.2 Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Director of Governance advised that further details would follow early in the Autumn Term, 2025 regarding the distribution and use of the new devices. 	
8. WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS		
8.1	OCKLYNGE CHALK PIT – CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES RELATED TO A REGISTERED CHARGE 16:45 8.1.1 The Board ratified the following written resolution, which had been approved effective 6 th January 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation to authorise Rebecca Conroy, CEO & Principal and Ian Mehrtens, Chair of the Board to execute the signing of the DS1 Form (Cancellation of Entries Related to a Registered Charge) on behalf of the East Sussex College Group, related to the previous sale of the Ocklynge Chalk Pit site. 	
8.2	TENANCY AT WILL FOR RAQUET STUDIOS (SOUTHOVER BUILDING) 16:45 8.2.1 The Board ratified the following written resolution, which had been approved effective 16 th January 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation to authorise Rebecca Conroy, CEO & Principal to execute the signing of a Tenancy at Will Agreement on behalf of the East Sussex College Group, related to the Racquet Studios (Southover Building, Lewes). 	
9. CONSENT AGENDA		
Approval		
9.1	POLICIES & KEY DOCUMENTS 16:46 9.1.1 Governors considered the following policies, noting the Policy Change Summary sheet, which outlined key changes made, and followed comprehensive committee level review and scrutiny. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESOLUTION – The Board agreed to approve the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Protection Policy Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity Plan Environmental & Sustainability Policy Expenses Policy Health, Safety & Welfare Policy Tuition & Fees Policy 	

#	Item	Action
Committee Meeting Minutes		
9.2	CHAIRS GROUP 9.2.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 23 rd January 2025.	16:46
9.3	GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE & REPUTATION COMMITTEE 9.3.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 6 th February 2025.	16:46
9.4	CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD 9.4.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 24 th February 2025.	16:46
9.5	CURRICULUM, SKILLS & QUALITY COMMITTEE 9.5.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 5 th March 2025.	16:46
9.6	RESOURCES, CULTURE & IMPACT COMMITTEE 9.6.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 6 th March 2025.	16:46
9.7	AUDIT RISK & COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE 9.7.1 Governors noted the minutes of the meeting on 11 th March 2025.	16:46
10. OTHER MATTERS		
10.1	ANY URGENT MATTERS 10.1.1 Governor discussion focussed on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a shift in Government policy for Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), Governors considered whether this may create any additional opportunities for the College. However, it was noted that this was a particularly competitive space, with priority currently being given to existing and experienced MATs at this time. There had been a trend in the East Sussex area for local secondary schools to relinquish their sixth form provisions, which presented a significant growth opportunity for the College. 	16:47
10.2	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 10.2.1 Governors noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 7th July 2025, 14:00-17:00 , which would be offsite in Eastbourne. This would include a Joint Strategy Planning Day and Full Board meeting.	16:50

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10.3	<p>LIVE MEETING EVALUATION 16:51</p> <p>10.3.1 Eleven survey responses were received from Governors as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th><th>ASSESSMENT QUESTION</th><th>RESULT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td><td>Was the agenda sufficiently balanced between core governance business and strategic priorities?</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td>Where the papers succinct, with clarity in the information being communicated and the action required by Governors?</td><td>91%</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td>Did you have all the information you needed to fully participate in discussion and decisions?</td><td>91%</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.</td><td>Was there sufficient time to debate priority items in depth?</td><td>91%</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.</td><td>Were you satisfied that decisions were arrived at in a proper manner?</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>6.</td><td>Was the student experience at the heart of decision making?</td><td>91%</td></tr> <tr> <td>7.</td><td>Did the Chair facilitate the meeting effectively, enabling adequate focus on strategic priorities and creating an environment where a range of perspectives were considered?</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>8.</td><td>Were opportunities created to invite input from Student and Staff Governors?</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>9.</td><td>Any comments or suggestions?</td><td>Yes</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>We need to consider having Board meetings at other campuses. I've noticed because we are in Hastings, that we tend to focus on the Hastings experience, for example I'm not sure there was much if any mention of Newhaven or our western campuses.</i> ○ <i>Also, we have many SMT and Governors coming from the west and middle of the county. It would be considerably more inclusive if we meet elsewhere, every now and then, nearer to some of our colleagues who have very long journeys to make to attend our Hastings Board meetings. This is particularly important as Devolution will change the locus of power in the region further west than it already is. Future proofing our decision making by ensuring our western Sussex voices are as equally heard as East and Mid-Sussex ones should take on a greater importance. So, we need to make it as easy for them to attend our Board meetings, as it is for us from the east of the county.</i> 	#	ASSESSMENT QUESTION	RESULT	1.	Was the agenda sufficiently balanced between core governance business and strategic priorities?	100%	2.	Where the papers succinct, with clarity in the information being communicated and the action required by Governors?	91%	3.	Did you have all the information you needed to fully participate in discussion and decisions?	91%	4.	Was there sufficient time to debate priority items in depth?	91%	5.	Were you satisfied that decisions were arrived at in a proper manner?	100%	6.	Was the student experience at the heart of decision making?	91%	7.	Did the Chair facilitate the meeting effectively, enabling adequate focus on strategic priorities and creating an environment where a range of perspectives were considered?	100%	8.	Were opportunities created to invite input from Student and Staff Governors?	100%	9.	Any comments or suggestions?	Yes	
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9.	Any comments or suggestions?	Yes																														
10.3	<p>CLOSE 16:51</p> <p>10.3.1 The first part of the meeting closed at 16:51.</p> <p>10.3.2 All non-Independent Governors left the meeting, with the CEO & Principal and Director of Governance also remaining.</p>																															

Action Summary

Item	Owner	Action	Due Date
0.1.1	BH	Cascade a copy of the Devolution Presentation and related supporting documents to Board Members.	Complete
0.1.2	RC/HC	Draft and submit a response to the consultation on the Sussex Devolution proposal.	Complete
2.1.1.1	RC	Update the ESCG Strategic Plan to include the amendments suggested in Section 2.1.1 of the minutes.	Complete
2.1.2.1	RC	Consider updating the summary version of the ESCG Strategic Plan to include the amendments suggested in Section 2.1.2 of the minutes.	Complete
2.1.3.1	RC	Provide Governor talking points for use at the Strategic Plan Launch Event on 25th April 2025. Also, ensure all attendees have name badges provided.	Complete
2.2.2.1	NB	Validate with Ofsted that the College may adopt a 'Good & Strong' strapline in promoting its recent inspection outcome.	Complete
3.3.1.1	BH	Circulate a copy of the 'Accountability Agreement & Local Needs Duty' to the Full Board, as well as the CS&Q Committee, with a view to provide a further opportunity to gather Governor feedback.	Complete
3.4.1.1	BH	Notify the Executive Director of Finance of the outcome of the Internal & External Audit Service Review, with a view for him to communicate this to both RSM and MHA.	Complete