

CHAIRS COMMITTEE

Search & Governance section minutes of the Chairs Committee meeting held on 17 March 2025 at 5.30pm on MS Teams

Present	Patrick Newberry	PN	Chair
	Pat Wilde	PW	
	Rob Bosworth	RB	Principal and Chief Executive
	Josephine John	JJ	
	Geoff Warring	GW	
In Attendance	Tian Bersey	TB	Clerk to Governors

Item		Action
1	WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jonathan Mashen. There were no further declarations of interest to declare.	
2	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING 2.1 Minutes The confidential minutes from the meeting held on 24 February 2025 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting and were approved by the Committee. Matters Arising 2.2 The Committee received the matters arising report.	
4	SEARCH & GOVERNANCE MATTERS 4.1 Schools Governor The Chair reminded the Committee of the concept that was previously agreed to invite a school leader to join the Board for a 2 year term, to ensure that the College was not tied to one trust/school, to draw on a wider population and provide fresh input to the Board. Given that a candidate would be invited to join the Board the Chair proposed a light touch approach to the recruitment process which was agreed. The Clerk will distribute a document outlining the proposed process to committee members for input. It was proposed and agreed to invite Dan Morrow, CEO of CELT (Cornwall Education Learning Trust) to join the Board as the first schools governor given that the College and CELT are working together on St Austell's A level provision. Two CELT schools in St Austell have also just received Ofsted outstanding which will combine in a 'triple crown' message for St Austell. The position will be piloted for two years.	TB
4.2	Recruitment Update The Clerk updated the Committee on interviews planned for April.	

	<p>The Chair reported that he had met the Diocesan of Truro Director of Education who may be a useful link to hard to reach communities. It was agreed that a meeting would be set up with the Principal.</p>	
4.3	<p>Attendance – expectations and attendance to date</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the attendance data to date and noted in the last round of committee meetings there were 2 issues with being quorate. The Chair highlighted that the meeting schedule had been changed mid year which may have impacted attendance. The Principal had hoped that the move to evening meetings would have improved attendance. The ELT would like to keep the evening committee meetings. The Chair of Curriculum and Quality emphasised the amount of work that goes into producing meeting papers and the importance of attendance for rich conversation, challenge and support in committee meetings. The Chair of HE missed C&Q and HE being able to meet on the same day and that co-opted committee members may never set foot on campus but was also cognisant of ELT feedback. Teams works but is not as rich. The Chair of Finance & Resources reported that Teams had worked well but attendance was a problem at the most recent meeting. The Committee reflected on the nature and complexity of the College and the group structure and the carbon footprint of in person meetings. It was agreed to review attendance and the meeting schedule again at the end of the year.</p>	ALL/TB
4.4	<p>2025/2026 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>The Clerk sought feedback on structure and shape of the meeting schedule. Chairs were asked to provide feedback offline. The Chair of Finance and Resources reported the need for the committee meetings to be scheduled after the management accounts were published to ensure the most up to date information.</p>	ALL
5	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The Chair of Finance and Resources emphasised the need to find a successor before the end of October 2025. The search to date has not produced a suitable candidate, the Chair requested that everyone consider potential candidates from within their networks.</p>	ALL
6	<p>INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH BOARD/COMMITTEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools Governor role and recruitment process 	
7	<p>DATES OF MEETINGS</p> <p>7 April 12 May 16 June</p>	