

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON 20TH MARCH 2017

PRESENT	Joyce Slack	Foundation (Chair)
	Sian Hopkins	Foundation
	Ian Mcilquham	Foundation
	David Collins	Foundation
	Dr Paul Bulpin	Community
	Denise Kelland	Community
	David Roylance	Community
	Stephanie Hicks-John	Parent
	Roger High	Parent
	David Wikeley	Parent
	Professor Peter Killie	Parent
	Nicola Davies	Local Authority
	Dr Michael Newman	Local Authority
	Huw Jones-Williams	Head Teacher
	Nick John	Teacher Governor
	Andrew Rooke	Teacher Governor
	Richard Burge	Staff Governor
	Scott Britt	Observer
	Andrew Hurley	Observer
	Menna Lewis	Observer

46 APOLOGIES

David Greaves; Nicole Kinnaird; Angus Robertson; Steve Williams; Maria Boffey; Max Vine.

47 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

48 MATTERS ARISING

(i) **Minute 37: Admissions Consultation: LA Proposal for Coordinated Admissions** – The Chair had met with two representatives of the Local Authority and had raised governors’ concerns. It had been decided to proceed with the “pilot scheme” subject to it being implemented successfully which would include adequate staffing support for the scheme and appropriate software to support the scheme. The Chair undertook to keep governors fully informed of developments in this matter.

(ii) **Minute 40: St. David’s College (SDC) Consultation on Return to Maintained Status** – The Chair and Headteacher had met with the Principal of the College and had a frank discussion regarding the proposal and any possible impact it could have upon Whitchurch High School. Governors would be kept informed of any developments.

Minute 41: CCYP Questionnaire: Timing of School Holidays and Term Dates – The Chair had written to the Local Authority expressing the view that there did not seem to be any tangible advantage in changing the school dates. There had been responses from a number of schools and discussions were ongoing.

49 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Changes to Committee membership were noted and approved.

50 GOVERNOR TRAINING

The Chair reminded governors of the compulsory training requirements.

51 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT – Huw Jones-Williams

A full written report was received which included the many successes of the school and main events held.

Three students from the school were successful in winning Oxbridge places, namely Tom Pycroft, Jasper Williams and Sam Wall.

Whitchurch Students had the chance of a VIP tour of Aston Martin Headquarters in Warwick. The prize was awarded by Aston Martin to the winning teams of this year's Diva Derby. Aston Martin will be using the Whitchurch model for future car design.

Whitchurch High School held a very successful Year 6 Enrichment Day in Maths and Computer Science for Year 6 students from feeder schools.

The school was joined by Radyr Comprehensive School for a Joint Practice Development Day at the All Nations Centre on Friday 19th January 2017. The event was led by Jim Smith, a head teacher and highly respected author on learning and teaching practice. Feedback had been very positive and it was a highly successful INSET Day. It was hoped to further develop the exciting core partnership with Radyr Comprehensive. The Head teacher and Governors wished to record their appreciation to Jim Smith for such a positive learning experience.

The many extra curricular successes were noted which included the achievement of a second degree Black Belt in Taekwondo by Caitlin O'Shea, a year 9 student.

Key Stage 3 SRB students had an amazing day in a Sport Wales "Boccia" competition held in Cardiff with schools across Wales. "Boccia" is a precision ball sport and is part of the Paralympic Games. The students came away with several medals and were placed in the top 3 of the competition.

A team of 6th form geologists travelled up to Coleg Sir Gar for the annual Welsh Schools Geology Challenge and for the third consecutive year, Whitchurch High School won. The winners have now been invited to the National final in London on 3rd May 2017.

52 STANDARDS UPDATE

A presentation was given by the Head teacher which was supported by a print out of statistics comparing December 2016 with February 2017. It was reported that projected figures should be approximately the same as the outcomes in 2016.

English and Mathematics predictions were slightly down on last year, but this could be attributed to changes in assessment parameters.

A further report was given by Scott Britt, Deputy Head teacher which included the planned strategies intended to address areas which required support regarding standards and the curriculum. Work would also be undertaken with the Welsh Bacalaureate.

It was also the intention to continue to work with free school meals students to close any gaps in performance and all vulnerable learners.

The Chair wished to record that she had been encouraged by the way that staff had responded to the Learning and Teaching meetings that had been held and the subsequent proposals regarding strategies that had resulted from those meetings.

In response to a question regarding Primary School pupils, the Head teacher reported that the school had a very close relationship with its Primary “linked” schools and that meetings were held with the Head teachers of those schools regarding standards.

Professor Killie asked whether Science standards of achievement would be below those achieved last year. The Head teacher expressed the view that it was not easy to predict outcomes in view of the influencing factors such as changes in choices by KS3 and KS4 students where some had opted to undertake the BTEC route. Also there had been “changes in goalposts” regarding standards levels, but an assurance was given by the Head teacher that there was no need for governors to be concerned about Science standards. Indeed ESTYN had commented that the school was well equipped to meet the challenges of teaching delivery and pupil achievement in Science. The school had been asked to give evidence of best practice.

It was noted that the school was in the top 10% of UK schools in 6th form standards and achievement.

53 BUDGET AND STAFFING

Although the outturn figure for this year showed a deficit of £170,000, this was a reduction of £70,000 in the deficit figure of last year. It was projected that the budget would be balanced next year, but it would not be possible to pay off any of the current deficit. The Head teacher reported that many schools were in a similar financial position and that he would be meeting with Local Authority Finance Officer on 3rd April 2017 to further discuss the situation. It was hoped that the deficit would be completely cleared in two years time.

The Head teacher wished to record his appreciation to Menna Lewis for her assistance in managing the budget.

Following discussion it was

AGREED That the proposed school budget should be approved. This included carrying over a deficit of £170,000.

A further report was given regarding staffing which had impacted upon the budget. At this point in time compulsory redundancy was not a consideration because of good “housekeeping”. However student uptake on subjects would continue to be closely monitored. On a more positive note, collaboration with Radyr Comprehensive and Bishop of Llandaff schools was proving to be successful.

54 CAPITAL INVESTMENT

A full update on progress was provided by the Head teacher.

DDA works had moved on, though there had been some delays in building work and plumbing applications. However progress was now being made.

The lower school would form the second phase of the development project.

The US art terrapins would be replaced by Local Authority terrapins in due course. The school would be taking an extra year 7 SRB class so there was a need for three new terrapins on LS. The Chair wished to record that it was essential that any additional pupil intake was adequately resourced and that the governing body would need to monitor this situation closely to ensure that such resources were made available.

The Head teacher assured governors that they would be kept fully informed in this matter.

55 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(i) Curriculum Committee

A verbal report was given. The main issue considered was the possibility of a tour by the 6th Form to Dubai during term time. It was felt by the Committee that this would set a precedent which was not advisable. This view was supported by the governing body and therefore the tour would not go ahead.

(ii) Finance Committee

A verbal report was given. It was again noted that the school budget deficit had been reduced from £240,000 to £170,000 and the work undertaken by Menna Lewis in skilfully monitoring the budget which had resulted in the reduction in the deficit was acknowledged by the governing body.

The school had spent £25,000 on electrical testing and the Head teacher had requested that this amount be refunded to the school by the Local Authority. A decision regarding this request was awaited.

(iii) Standards Committee

A verbal report was given and noted. The business of the Committee had already been covered under "Standards Update". The Committee would meet again to look at the expected numbers on roll for September 2017.

(iv) Buildings Committee

A verbal report was given though the business of the Committee had already been covered previously under "Capital Investment".

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

56 POLICY CONSIDERATION AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR GOVERNORS

(i) Vexatious Complaints Policy

This document was noted and adopted by the governing body.

(ii) Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

This document was noted and the recommendations were adopted by the governing body.

57 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Minute 55 (v).

58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th June 2017 commencing at 7:00pm.

Meeting concluded.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Slack", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair of Governors