

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HELD
AT THE SCHOOL ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT	Sian Hopkins	Partnership (Chair)
	Joyce Slack	Partnership
	Max Vine	Partnership
	David Collins	Partnership
	Dr Paul Bulpin	Community
	Maria Boffey	Community
	David Roylance	Community
	Dr Tessa Bailey	Parent
	Dr Catherine Bushell	Parent
	Paul Lloyd Davies	Parent
	Lisa Williams	Parent
	Stephen O'Hare	Parent
	Naomi Pearson	Parent
	Andrew Davies	Local Authority
	Nick John	Headteacher
	Jonathan Davies	Teacher
	Noreen Linforth	Teacher
	Richard Burge	Staff
	Diego Fasano	Associate Pupil
	Chloe Counter	Associate Pupil
	Scott Britt	Deputy Head (Observer)
	Wayne Lilly	Business Manager (Observer)
	Steve Williams	Estates (Observer)
	Ceri Garland	Deputy Head (Observer)
	Gareth Coombs	Clerk to the Governors

15 APOLOGIES

Ian McIlquham; Jayne Catherall.

16 GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

The election of the following Parent governors to the governing body was noted:-
Dr Tessa Bailey; Dr Catherine Bushell; Jayne Catherall; Paul Lloyd Davies; Lisa Williams; Stephen O'Hare; Naomi Pearson.

The Chair welcomed the new governors to the meeting.

17 MINUTES

The minutes of the last governing body meeting held on 18th September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

18 MATTERS ARISING

(i) **Minute 4: Succession Planning** – the possible appointment of an extra Vice Chair was agreed. If any governor was interested in being appointed as the extra Vice Chair they should contact either Sian Hopkins or Joyce Slack.

19 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk would circulate the current list of committees and membership to all governors prior to the next full governing Body meeting. If governors were interested in being appointed to one or more of the committees or wished to withdraw from a committee then they should inform the Clerk or raise the matter at the next FGB meeting.

20 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(i) **Estates Committee** – A verbal report was given by the Headteacher and a full update was contained in his Headteacher's report under Estates Update which had been circulated with the agenda. Work on the School and site was noted. The Headteacher informed governors that the School was in consultation with the Local Authority to try to secure funding for the demolition of the maths block and Key Focus Areas. The school had been informed by the LA that there was no further funding available for building projects for the foreseeable future. However, current work was going well and the Headteacher would continue to keep governors informed of progress.

21 HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE – Nick John

A full written report had been circulated with the agenda.

Throughout the Autumn term the school had a clear focus on 3 out of the 4 vision related priorities for the academic year. Those were SIG, Consistency, Behaviour and Mutual Respect and Disadvantaged Learners.

SIG Group Work enabled everyone within the school to have a say in and contribute to school improvement. A SIG group overview and a flow chart explaining the student improvement approach was provided by the Headteacher in his report.

Consistency, Key Focus Areas and the Progression For Alex Model was explained in detail to Governors.

Behaviour and Mutual Respect was a focus area. The new "ready to learn" approach had been established and the school had invested in additional capacity within the ready to learn base to cover staff absence through the Autumn term. The way that behaviour and mutual respect was put into practice by the school was explained in detail by the Headteacher and endorsed by Governors. It was noted that exclusions as of 17th November 2023 were close to the overall total for last term already with 5 weeks to go. Many of the exclusions were for repeat offenders. A system for

rewarding positive behaviour had also been developed and was explained in the report.

Student attendance figures were provided and currently stood at 92.32. However it was hoped that the attendance would improve to pre-covid levels shortly of above 96%. During the Autumn term home visits to eFSM families in years 7 and 11 have had a positive impact on attendance.

A full report was provided on **Disadvantaged Learners**. With regard to attainment a comparison was provided covering a 3 year period from 2019 to 2023. One of the key objectives this year was to improve the academic progress of disadvantaged learners across the school. Improving attendance and identifying the most suitable courses for students will be critical in improving these outcomes. It was noted that Maria Boffey was the appointed Governor for disadvantaged learners.

The Headteacher gave a report on the **All Wales Core Data Set** which involved the analysis of the performance of schools. Within this data the school was put in a family of 10 schools with similar levels of challenge. At the moment Whitchurch High School was the least challenged. A further and more detailed report would be provided by Ceri Garland in this matter at a future meeting.

Staff appointments were noted.

The Options Process Updates were noted.

Update on the Autumn Showcase was provided.

Parent/Carer Engagement Evenings had been held and there had been some really positive feedback.

The School Self Evaluation Report for the 2022-2023 academic year has been written and is available on the school website.

Site Safety and Emergency Planning plans were noted. The Headteacher would continue to provide updates in this matter.

The school had hosted a blood donation day.

Whitchurch High School's Faculty Leader of Technology, Mr Mike Williams, had recently been honoured with the prestigious Design & Technology Association Excellence Award sponsored by CO2 Laser Repair Service for his outstanding Industry Engagement. Governors commended Mr Williams on his achievement.

The school had been notified that it will be inspected by Estyn during the week beginning 4th December 2023.

With regard to Faculty Updates, this regular section of the report would provide governors with an overview of the work of their faculty over the term leading up to each full governing body meeting. governors felt that this was a good idea.

Written reports were provided on:-

- Health & Wellbeing – Sarah Smith
- Languages – Janine Davies
- Ty Calon – Cris Evans
- Chronologies – Mike Williams
- Performing Arts – Lara Jones-Price
- Humanities – Noreen Linforth
- Art – Michelle Edwards
- Social & Economic Studies Faculty – Lucie Ozturk
- Science – Alun Smith
- Mathematics Faculty – Fiona Harding
- English – Kirsty Price
- Enhanced Curriculum Faculty – Kelly Gambold and Sian Thompson
- Sport & Exercise – Gwyn Morris

YEAR GROUP UPDATES – this regular section will provide the opportunity for progress leaders to provide Governors with an overview of the work of their year group over the term leading up to each full governing body meeting. The following updates were given concentrating on Attendance, Well-being, Attainment and any other relevant matters:-

- Year 7 – Adam Webb
- Year 8 – Whitney Taylor
- Year 9 – Neil Potter
- Year 10 – Alan Horgan
- Year 11 – Lauren Polly
- Sixth Form – Kirsty Davies and Darryn Havard

The Headteacher ended his report by thanking the governing body for all their support and to all staff at the school for their continued hard work and dedication to the school.

22 SER/SIP

A full presentation was given by Ceri Garland. Strengths, Areas of Development and Priority Areas were focused upon in the presentation.

Progress was continually reviewed each half term in all areas of development.

The full presentation was available on the school website.

The Headteacher thanked Ceri for her presentation.

23 POLICIES

The following policies were adopted by the governing body:-

- Achievement and Behaviour Policy (required amendments had been made)
- Child Protection Policy
- Word Processor Policy
- Statement of Student travel between the two sites
- Curriculum Policy
- Learning, Teaching and Feedback Policy
- School Leave Policy and Procedure
- Emergency Policy and Procedures (subject to an update following consultation with David Collins, Partnership governor)
- Site Safety Plan
- Adverse Weather Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy (Exams)
- Exams Malpractice Policy
- Links with Parents Policy

24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Wood, Groundsman - Mr Wood, the school groundsman, would be retiring after many years at the school. It was agreed that the governors would write a suitable letter of thanks to Mr Wood on his retirement.


25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None

26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd January 2024 commencing at 6pm.

Meeting concluded.

Signed: 
(Chair)

Date: 22.1.24