

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HELD
AT THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2016**

PRESENT	Joyce slack	Chair	-	Foundation
	Ian Mcilquham		-	Foundation
	Max Vine		-	Foundation
	Dr Paul Bulpin		-	Community
	Denise Kelland		-	Community
	David Roylance		-	Community
	Stephanie Hicks-John		-	Parent
	David Greaves		-	Parent
	Cllr Jonathan Evans		-	Local Authority
	Huw Jones-Williams		-	Head Teacher
	Nick John		-	Teacher Governor (Deputy Head)
	Andrew Rooke		-	Teacher Governor
	Richard Burge		-	Staff Governor
	Gaynor Bell		-	Observer (Deputy Head)
	Jennifer Ford		-	Observer (Deputy Head)
	Menna Lewis		-	Observer (Business Director)
	David Collins		-	Observer
	Gareth Coombs		-	Clerk to the Governing Body

APOLOGIES Nicole Kinnaird (Parent); Roger Haigh (Parent); Maria Boffey (Parent); Louise Pearce (Parent); David Wikeley (Parent); Dr Michael Newman (Local Authority); Sian Hopkins (Community); Steve Williams (Observer); Paul Fisher (Observer); Rhys Battle (Associate Pupil); Lucy Dickinson (Associate Pupil).

46 **DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS**
None.

47 **MINUTES**
The minutes of the last meeting held on 1st February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

48 **MATTERS ARISING**
(i) Minute 34(i) : Swimming Pool – The Head Teacher reported that there were a number of continuing problems with the ventilation and heating systems and that there were health and safety concerns regarding the filters which required remedial work. It appeared that the main cause of the delay in resolving these issues rested with the contractor. However it was hoped that all necessary work would be completed within the next 4 weeks.
Governors wished to record their concern over the delay in addressing the Problems with the swimming pool and it was

AGREED That the Chair write to Neil Hardee in the LEA with the request that the remedial work be completed as soon as possible.

49 GOVERNOR MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION AND TRAINING

There had been no further developments in this matter at therefore nothing to report.

50 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(i) Admissions Committee

A meeting had been held and a verbal report was given to the Governing Body by the Chair. Written minutes of the Committee would be available at the school. There had been 429 pupil admission requests. The Committee proposed that the school admission number be increased to 390 which was based upon a 12 form intake which would include a “nurture” class. The proposed admission number was currently the subject of required consultation with the LEA which had offered to manage the admissions process for the school. However after much discussion Governors felt that it would be in the best interests of the school if the admissions process was managed by the school as this would allow more control over admissions and would be beneficial in helping the school to manage the budget.

(ii) Buildings Committee

A meeting had been held and a verbal report was given to the Governing Body. Written minutes of the Committee would be available at the school. The Chair informed Governors that the LEA was considering building a new secondary school building for Whitchurch High School on the Whitchurch Hospital grounds. It was

AGREED That the Chair write to the LEA for more details of the proposal to build a new secondary school building.

Much concern was expressed by the Head Teacher regarding the ongoing problems with the lifts which, in the event of an emergency evacuation could not be used to evacuate pupils with wheelchairs. Governors also expressed their concern over this matter and it was

AGREED That Councillor Jonathan Evans would contact the LEA to convey the concern of the Governing Body and to ask why there was a delay in resolving the problems with the lifts.

(iii) Curriculum Committee : 22nd February 2016

A verbal report was given by Gaynor Bell and the decisions and proposals made by the Committee were received and approved. Written minutes of the Committee would be available at the school.

(iv) Pay Committee : 29th February 2016

A verbal report was given by Paul Bulpin and the decisions and proposals made by the Committee were received and approved. Written minutes of the Committee would be available at the school.

(v) Standards Committee

A meeting had been held and a verbal report was given by Paul Bulpin. The decisions and proposals of the Committee were received and approved. Written minutes of the Committee would be available at the school.

(vi) Governor Visit Feedback

Denise Kelland, on behalf of the Governing Body, reported on the visit to the school for the St David's Day Concert. The enthusiasm of pupils was outstanding and it was a really enjoyable and impressive evening.

51 POLICIES

(i) Learning Pathways Policy – 11-16 (Last reviewed February 2016)

This was received and adopted.

(ii) Governors' Admissions Policy 2017 to 2018

This was received and adopted.

(iii) Policy Statement – Bilingualism (Last reviewed December 2015)

This was received and adopted.

52 HEAD TEACHERS' REPORT : Huw Jones-Williams

A full written report was received.

It was with great sadness that the Headteacher reported on the passing of Hollie Ballantine at the age of just 17 years. Hollie was a bright, popular and talented artist, having joined the school from Coryton Primary School at the start of year 7. Hollie led by example throughout her time as a student at Whitchurch High and was an inspiration to others by her determination to succeed. She lived life to the full and always gave her best. Hollie often spoke of wanting to be an art teacher and there was no doubt that she had the talent to be one. The School community was shocked by Hollie's death, but were proud and privileged to have known her. Governors wished to echo these sentiments and extended their sympathies to Hollie's parents and family.

The Head teacher was also sad to report the death of Dai John, former Head of Sixth Form and Midori Matsu, Welsh Japanese Saturday School Organiser. The school was represented at both funerals.

The school had been involved in a number of charity events in aid of raising awareness and research into diabetes. This was inspired by the memory of Peter Baldwin, a pupil at the school who tragically died of the disease in January 2015. Much had also been achieved in fund raising by Beth and Stuart, Peter's parents who were winners of the Pride of Wales award last year and were also nominated for the Pride of Britain award. Governors wished to record their own congratulations to Beth and Stuart on their award whilst again recording their sadness at the tragic loss of their son Peter.

In a very full report, the following key issues were highlighted by the Head Teacher:-

- Governors' Admissions Policy 2017/18
- DDA and Assessment Renewal Plans
- Learning Pathways Policy
- Work Related Education
- Budget and Staffing
- KS4 Standard Tracking
- School Improvement Plan Update
- Estyn Inspection Report
- Cardiff Council Employee Survey
- School Performance of "Into The Woods"
- Cluster Art Exhibition: It was noted that every primary school would be hosted by Whitchurch High for this event.
- INSET dates for 2016-17

A full list of school and individual student successes and achievements was noted and received by Governors. Of particular interest and commendation was the fact that 5 students had won places at Oxbridge.

Governors also wished to record their congratulations to Sophie Williams who had recently won the Young Photographer of the Year at The Clothes Show. Sophie was currently studying Art Photography at GCSE level at the school.

Over the course of the Autumn Term 2015, the school mentored, supported and hosted Welsh celebrities who had elected to take on GCSE examinations in a chosen subject, all seeking an A*. This was covered by the BBC and was subsequently broadcast on BBC1 Wales. Wynne Evans, Tenor, Broadcaster and Gio Compario in the Insurance adverts achieved an A* grade in Welsh Second Language; Behnaz Akhgar, BBC Wales Today Weather forecaster achieved a C grade in Mathematics and Omar Hamdi, Welsh-Egyptian comedian, achieved an A grade in History. The

Head Teacher, on behalf of the school wished to record his congratulations to the celebrities on their achievements and the way that they interacted with the school.

53 PRESENTATION – Huw Jones-Williams

(i) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(ii) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(iii) Latest KS4 Tracking
A full report was given by the Head Teacher and the target and actual figures were noted. At the instigation of the Chair, Governors discussed the targets that had been set and whether these were realistic for the current year group. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers commented that they felt that it was good practice to “stretch” pupils with reference to modelled expectations. This year significant support for students had been provided with bespoke provision wherever possible. This built on strategies introduced last year. Core subject performance was strong but there was still too great an inconsistency with in-school variation between subjects. The focus on closing the gaps strategies at all levels continues. A further report would be made to Governors in September when actual statistics would be available. Governors recognised the support given by staff for individual pupils.

(iv) Key Priorities 2015 to 2018

These were noted and approved.

(v) Key School Improvement Priorities 2015 to 2016

These were noted and approved.

(vi) Mid-Year Review of SiP 2015 to 2016

The Head Teacher gave a full report and focused upon those areas requiring attention.

(vii)

[REDACTED]

54 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- (i) Minute 53 (i) : Budget and Staffing**
- (ii) Minute 53 (ii) : Staffing**
- (iii) Minute 53 (vii) : Estyn Report**

55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4th July 2016

Meeting concluded.



Signed:

Chair of Governors