

Present: Councillor P Rees
Councillor S Penry
Mr M Protheroe
Mrs J Cotgias– arrived at 4.30
Mr G Llewellyn
Mrs C Loaring arrived at 4.10 pm
Mrs J Lewis
Mr S John
Mr D Evans
Mrs B Marks
Mr J Yeomans
Mrs R Reed – Deputy Headteacher
Mr D Cole - Headteacher
Mrs A Powis – Clerk to the Governing Body

The meeting opened at 4.10 pm

1. Apologies for Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from;
Mr J Warman, Mrs L Pawan, Mrs M Talbot, Mr W Curtis, Councillor L Jones.
No apology from Councillor L Heard.

2. School Council / Senedd Report

Mrs Anderson (Pupil Commissioner for the school) and two pupils arrived at 4.00 pm. Two of the year 7 pupils that are in the meeting today have come to speak to the governors on the Pupil Voice and Our Senedd. They have both been successful in applying for an opportunity to become a member of the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Advisory Panel.

One of the pupils spoke regarding Siarad Iaith, the pupil relayed that it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that the school are holding the Eisteddfod and the Welsh department will organise this, she went on to inform the governors how the day will look and it will finish by everyone signing the National Anthem. The pupil thanked the governors for inviting her this afternoon.

The other pupil has been in discussion with regards to the school uniform. He went on to inform governors that they have made a difference this year with regards to our summer school uniform policy which will help families with regards to the cost of living crisis. It was agreed with the senior leadership team and discussed in the Senedd that pupils will be allowed to wear a plain polo shirt with no badge in the summer.

There were no questions from the governors, they mentioned that it is good to see younger pupils taking part and making decisions, congratulations to all involved.
Mrs Anderson and the two pupils left the meeting at 4.15 pm

Mrs J Cotgias arrived in at 4.30 pm

3. Headteacher's Report

The Head relayed the following to the governors

- Congratulations to Mrs B Marks who was appointed as permanent Deputy Head. The local authority were impressed with our programme of the day.
- He relayed to the governors regarding the exclusions and pupils coming into the school from the last 3 years, which had presented problems he presented the exclusion data to the governors. These young pupils are in all schools, and there has been a bid for support for all schools.
- Governors were presented with a spreadsheet of the budget. At the moment we are aware there is a possible £138k hole in the finances as the WAG has not agreed to fully fund the Teachers and Support Staff pay award. If we continue with our model we could have in an end of year deficit. We will not know this detail until the end of this financial year. However, we remain on target with our projection should this unforeseen financial pressure not come to fruition.
- The Governors agreed to continue with the 2 year spending plan on additional pastoral support staff to enable pupils to fully reintegrate back into school life. Even if this resulted in an end of year deficit should the pay award constraint come to fruition. The Headteacher thanked the governors for their support.
- The Headteacher indicated that he believed that inclusion and exclusion numbers would rise moving forward as we have had an extraordinary amount of in year transfers who have behavioural needs. We have PAWB, Caredig, Barod and the PIC where pupils go to for a day, (none of them are funded with the authority). Even this provision is being stretched at the moment.
- Strike action; the NEU are saying the strike will go ahead. The school go through a risk assessment on every strike day, to see if we can open up to certain year groups. We would also not undermine the strike action, only the Headteacher and his 2 deputies can be asked to supervise pupils in the canteen. Nationally it is going to happen on 2nd March 2023, the school will be open tomorrow to staff but closed to pupils. All pupils who are at home will have lessons on line.

*The Chair mentioned the behaviour of pupils in school currently and asked the governing body if they would support the Head if he does send pupils home, the parents are responsible for their child's behaviour, are governors happy to support this?
Governors agreed to support the Head in sending pupils home, if he needs to.*

Governors are concerned that the school may be becoming a dumping ground?

The Head relayed that if there is space in the school we have to accept the pupils.

Governors questioned if all the new intake of pupils were from within the County or not?

Headteacher displayed a spreadsheet which showed a majority of pupils were from the local authority.

Mrs Reed (Deputy Head) presented the governors with the following regarding the New Curriculum. Since the commissioning of the new curriculum for our Year 7 pupils in September feedback from all stakeholders has been increasingly positive. The ethos of EACH and our purpose led curriculum in developing ethical, ambitious, creative and healthy learners is impacting on all aspects of the pupils learning experience. In line with Welsh Government guidance individual pupil progress has been shared with parents during the autumn term parents evening and there is a second planned for late spring term.

To date, feedback on pupils' experiences and progress are positive. Parents will receive a full written report on their child's progress in the summer term.

All AoLE (Areas of Learning) have undergone a pupil centred review focusing on pupil progression across their subject knowledge and skills, attributes to learning and cross-curricular skills. The reviews emphasised the effectiveness of the learning wheel in the pupils understanding of their learning and how to make progress. The learning wheel is also central to curriculum design and the way pupils are taught.

In conjunction with CCE – Creative Council England, in sharing our good practice we have recently hosted several Headteachers from the North of England sharing our vision for the curriculum of Wales and describing to them our journey in developing our creative pedagogy.

Feedback from the authority has been increasingly positive. Our AoLE Curriculum leads regularly attend training provided by the local authority including CAMAU and Curriculum design. During our Core Visit our Education Support Officer (ESO) was highly impressed with our vision for Teaching and learning, our approach and development of the learning wheel and its impact on pupils learning to date. As soon as the school receives the report Mrs Reed will share it with governors in the next meeting.

In summary

- Pupils like it – are engaged in their learning and making progress
- Recognised locally and nationally
- Makes a difference to the pupils

Mr J Yeomans left at 4.45 pm.

4. Safeguarding Report

The Head relayed that Mrs Humphries (Pastoral Lead) puts the report together, the Head is still concerned about the schools attendance and mentioned that what is dragging the figures down is pupils staying at home. The pastoral team are working extremely hard at the moment. The safeguarding report is attached which governors had been given.

5. Health and Safety Report

No H&S issues to report, apart from the school are currently not allowed to have lettings after 5 pm. Planning permission of noise had not been carried out when the school was built. The authority are now in the in the process of obtaining this and we should hear quite soon.

The Chair raised the safety of balls being kicked over the fence at houses.

The Head relayed that when construction is finished there is going to be shrouding of the light and netting done.

6. Attendance report

Governors have been sent the report on attendance which is attached. The Head relayed that attendance at the moment is not good enough we are 8th out of 8 within the County.

A governor asked if the school take out the in the in-year transfers would that make a difference?

We have not done this as a school. It would show a difference as their attendance is below the attendance of the whole school. However, these pupils are on our role and ours and we are responsible for their attendance. As they spend more time with us, with our support staff, their attendance will improve. All the schools within County currently have the same problems with pupils.

Attendance report accepted.

7. To Receive and confirm the minutes of the following meetings

- i) Full Governing Body Minutes 27th October 2022**
Governing body minutes approved and accepted.
- ii) Finance Committee Minutes, 27th October 2022**
Governing body minutes approved and accepted.
- iii) Full Governing Body Minutes, 16th November 2022 via Teams**
Governing body minutes approved and accepted.
- iv) Pupil Disciplinary report for 2 permanent exclusions**
Governing body minutes accepted the minutes.

The Head relayed that we are currently dealing with a potential permanent exclusion.

8. Policies to Adopt

i) Complaints Policy

The complaints policy has been put together and is a Government template for the school to adopt.

Governors adopt the Complaints Policy and suggest there is a template for the complainant to complete and exactly what the complaint is regarding.

The Head relayed that he would speak to the authority with regards to that.

He would also like to clarify that in the past the Chair or Vice will get spoken to directly, and as a governing body what, we should do when this happens, he explained that they should not get drawn into a complaint at the beginning and that there is a process to be followed.

Governors support this with the Head as complaints can be a difficult process. In order not to undermine the process the first point of call is the Clerk or the nominee for the complaints policy, not the Chair or Vice at the beginning.

9. Correspondence received

- i) Data Training from January 2023 – emailed to the Governors**

10. AOB

The Head mentioned an update on the drop off area, residents seem to have stopped complaining. The school cannot see nothing being changed with the way it is running and it seems to have settled now into a routine. I cannot see the school hearing anymore from the local authority on it.

The date and time of next meeting has provisionally been put in as Wednesday 5th July 2023, but the governors and the Head relayed that we will call one sooner than that in the new term.

Meeting concluded at 5.10 pm

Chair signature