

Present Councillor P Rees
Mr S John
Mrs J Lewis – arrived at 3.20 pm
Mr D Cole – Headteacher
Mrs R Reed – Deputy Head
Mrs A Powis – Clerk to the Governors

1. Apologies for Absence

The clerk gave the apologies of absence to the governing body for Mrs M Talbot, Mr M Protheroe.

Governors accepted the apologies.

2. Budget update 2023/2024

The Head spoke to the Finance committee which he will also relay to the Full Governors after this meeting. He explained to the governors where we are with the pastoral team at the moment in school and how we are to proceed to move forward for next year. The Head is asking the Finance committee, that going forward he will consult with the Chair on where we will be with the new budget.

The Head relayed that we are in a unique position in school at the moment and it is much harder with pupils settling back into school, with behaviour etc. This time last year the school were able to spend their £550k reserve on the pastoral team. The Head presented the governors a spreadsheet of pupils that had gone out of the school in the last 3 years.

He went onto show a spreadsheet of pupils that had arrived into the school over the last 3 years and these pupils are struggling with a lot of problems. We knew as a school last January 2022, that it was going to be difficult to manage the pupils and as a Governing Body they gave the Head money from the reserves to put the pastoral team together.

The Head then showed a spreadsheet since January attendance is 63% and the exclusions are big, he went onto explain that as a school we are getting swamped. Currently pupils are coming into school and refuse to do things, there is a defiance of following school rules. Exclusion numbers are starting to rise again.

The Chair questioned what was reason these pupils moved to Cefn Saeson? Head relayed that it could be anything from bullying to falling out with friends etc, hence why they want to move here.

Individual families are moving their children into the school. At the moment we have scope in year 9 to accept pupils, and we are not allowed to refuse. These are the pupils that are refusing to go to PAWB. The Head wrote to the Director of Education regarding this, and he is well aware of this and it is within other schools in NPT. We are successful with our pastoral team, however, we cannot continue as a dumping ground.

The Chair mentioned that we have the added problem of pupils in school, but no money to deal with them.

The Head relayed that the school have currently got in place the PIC, PAWB, BAROD, Caredig, which none are funded for. The school cannot continue as we are currently. We now have a problem, where we are at a stage that we go into debt either this year or next year, or the authority will help us out with funding. The Head wanted to give governors a background as to where the school currently is.

The Chair relayed that parents have to be told if the pupils are not complying they need to be spoken to.

A governor asked if the pupils we have coming into the school we have funding for them? The Head answered that the school will get funding, but we will not be able to support our current pastoral team.

Mrs J Lewis – arrived at 3.20 pm

Head relayed the following budget to the governors, and gave them a spreadsheet of the costs;

- Salaries is showing a minus £40k because the £138K shortfall we have had due to the percentage increase in salaries that we were not funded for. Welsh Government have only covered 4% but the school have paid 5%.
- Supply is £50k over budget as the school have a supply teacher coming in for a teacher on maternity leave.
- Fuel will come in on budget for this year, however the increase for the price for fuel 2023/2024 is anything between 61% to 160%.
- The bottom figure on the second page of the spreadsheet, shows an estimated overspend of £640k, there is some additional income to come in and there is an underspend of £25k in the SEN. There is an agreement with the local authority that the SEN will not cost the school and currently staffing levels within the SEN will lead to £125k.
- Hillside, has been worked out for all our staffing so the school will get that paid into us.
- The end of the year we are looking at £12k. However, if we do not have to pay the pay award and we get that back of the authority then we are looking at £150k going forward.

We have currently been advised to plan for an in year deficit which could put us in a deficit in April 2024 of £148k deficit. However, if we get the money back from Welsh Government for the salary increase we will be back to where we need to be and not in a deficit budget going forward.

A governor asked had the school received the budget yet? The Head relayed that we do not have that until around March and our budget is currently projected. We project the budget on this year's costing and this year's indications and inflate the costs going forward. There will also be a reduction in some of the teaching staff.

The Head relayed that the schools best guess at this stage is £161k this is where we are at the moment. When the budget comes in at the end of March, if the Finance Committee agree for the Head to the speak to the Chair regarding the budget moving forward and the committee may need to be called for an extra ordinary meeting.

It was agreed by the committee for the Chair and the Head to meet and discuss the budget from 2023/2024.

3. **AOB**

Meeting concluded at 3.45 pm

P.A. Rao

Chair of Governors