PRESENT: Councillor P Rees – Chair

Mrs J Lewis

Mrs J Cotgias

Mr D Cole – Headteacher

Mrs R Reed – Deputy Headteacher left at 3.30 pm

Mrs A Powis – Clerk to Governors

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were given for Mr M Protheroe and Mr S John.

*Governors Accept the apologies.*

1. **Budget Share**

The Headteacher presented the governors with the following;

The school has been given the budget award from the LEA for 2024/2025 the share is £4,901,362. The claw back for 2023/2024 was £48,627, this is taken off the school if we have had less pupils or pupils that have moved programmes.

Admission numbers for pupils are good moving forward and the school have a confirmed extra 30 pupils in September 2024. The school could also possibly be looking at another 30 the following year. We have also been receiving money for the Visually Impaired provision which gives us an extra £23,000, but it doesn’t cost us extra staffing.

The school budget for last year 2023/2024, at the end of the year the school are looking to end at £-135,000 which is £66,000 more than was predicted originally. The school have had more sickness, so there has been a significant cost to supply. The Non Teachers pay award was not funded from the Welsh Government.

The school also introduced quality assurance time for staff to prepare for Estyn. For the school to manage this QA they had to had to employ an extra member of staff since January 2024. The school are looking at an in year deficit of £280k.

Headteacher asked if there were any questions. *Governors had no questions.*

The school have increased in total employee costs, increase of 2%, they had to employ an additional Welsh teacher. The Head has had meetings with the LEA regarding the SENC and how it is going to look in 2025, this will be presented to Governors next year.

Food purchases the Head has reduced this cost, the school may need to look at food costs moving forward, we will be keeping an eye on it.

Supply Cover the school must look at reducing this going forward, but it will be after Estyn. Exam fees the school have reduced, the reason is we have changed our policy on early entry.

The balance at end of year is £-135,000 with an in year deficit of £-416.005 and we are looking at ending the year 2025 at £-551,005 in deficit.

We have a few members of staff going on voluntary redundancy, there has been no replacement for 1 member of staff in French so there is a saving there of over 3 years of £92,227. Another member of staff can be absorbed within the school structure. The school will need to replace the pastoral lead as they are a FTE teacher, the Head can look at amalgamating some roles, savings for these are £89,718 and £83,620. Another member of staff has been an excellent teacher we would need a .75 teacher to replace the, but the TLR can be absorbed. The saving of them all over a 3 year period is £347,849. These costs are modelled going forward.

*A governor questioned how much is invested in all the replacements?*

The Head replied that the cost is included in this figure.

Over the next 3 years there could be potential changes in staffing which will make some savings.

Thanks to the authority for help on the Voluntary Redundancy.

The Chair relayed to Governors that the recommendation is to accept the budget.

*Governors accept the budget for 2024-2025*

Meeting ended 3.55 pm

Chair of Finance Committee

Councillor P Rees