

Minutes of the meeting of the full governing body held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 4.30pm.

Present:

Mrs N Galloway (Chair)
Mr C McConnachie
Miss J Harvey
Mr C Feeney
Mr I Lindsay
Mr T Rimmer
Mrs N Harwood
Mr A Walker
Mr I Siddall (Headteacher)

Also Present:

Mrs E Wallace (Clerk to Governors)

Mrs S Khan (Observer – Deputy Headteacher)
Miss F Bate (Observer – Deputy Headteacher)
Mr S Stott (Observer - Director of Resources)

Apologies:

Apologies received and accepted for Mr I Siddall, Mrs J Vila & Mrs H Benwell

Please note the Department for Education ‘urges governing boards to be pragmatic in what they cover in meetings during this time, and to be proportionate in the decisions that they are planning to take’. They expect governors to focus on ‘urgent, time-bound decisions’ and understand boards will want to ‘defer non urgent decisions/agenda items until future meetings’.

In addition, the National Governance Association (NGA) has advised paperwork be scaled back and verbal updates be provided wherever possible during this time.

2a. Governing Body Matters

a) Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

b. Terms of office/membership

The members held a meeting and voted for Mr McConnachie to remain a member appointed governor.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated to Governors, be approved and signed by the Chair with the following amendments:

- Safer recruitment link to be sent in the coming weeks.
- School visit feedback – See point 5

Clerk

4. Chair's action and update

The Chair nominated a governor to attend interviews at the academy.

5. School visit feedback

The Chair explained she had visited the academy and was impressed with standards of uniform and punctuality. Students were well behaved and absent from corridors. The Chair encouraged governors to visit the academy.

6. Budget 2023/24

The Whole school budget document had been distributed to governors prior to the meeting.

Mr Stott stated the supplementary budget has been amalgamated into the main budget. He continued to explain this would be the final year of the school led tutoring grant, which covers fifty percent of the £32,000 cost.

The academy will continue to support with the SCITT. The SCITT could continue after next year.

Lettings will remain and brings in approximately £30,000 a year.

An ICT technician has been seconded to Baines to assist in their technology needs, this will cease shortly, as the needs of the academy has changed.

Music tuition costs have remained the same but the academy may look to increase these slightly.

A governor asked if the music lessons are subsidised.

Mr Stott stated they are, currently charge to parents at £6 per lesson, with this likely to rise.

A governor questioned the support Hodgson offered to Baines and whether Hodgson invoiced Baines for this support.

Mr Stott replied explaining and ICT technician visited two afternoons a week to provide ICT support. The academy does invoice, however this does not cover the cost of the technicians salary.

Mr Stott explained the budget is based on the expected 4.5% pay rise for teaching staff. This has also been predicted for the 24/25 budget. The model assumes all staff eligible for a pay increase will receive it.

The support staff pay increase is still in dispute. The 3.88% expected increase could be higher, due to the nature of the pay point system.

Pension contributions and national insurance rate to remain the same.

The supply budget to remain the same with the expectation for the cost to fall next year.

The staff room is currently under construction, as well as a SCITT training room, upgraded toilets and keeping part of the budget for miscellaneous projects throughout the year.

Whilst fuel bills are slowly decreasing, the cost remains high.
A governor questioned the key rate for the solar panels.

Mr Stott replied we receive £4,500 and he will retrieve the exact amount.

Mr Stott

The academy will be looking to upgrade some of the ICT facilities, we look to use technology for five years however these have been in use for seven/eight years and have now gone past their life cycle. The life span has been increased by upgraded RAM and changing to solid state drives. The server is from 2016, this will also need replacing in the summer.

£20,000 will go towards the technology department due to a change in curriculum and a new laser cutter requirement.

£20,000 extra has been budgeted for alternative provision.

Ms Skinner will remain at Hodgson.

There are areas of red showing on the budget, due to the average teacher cost and last years KPI rates, this may change when figures are input. Teacher costs are higher than other schools, but this is required to provide the leadership required.

A governor asked how Hodgson's staffing expenditure compares to other schools.

Mr Stott stated he would find this out and report back to governors.

Mr Stott

7. Headteacher's Report

The Headteacher's report document was distributed to governors prior to the meeting.

The Chair expressed congratulations to the members of staff leaving for a promoted role.

A governor stated there are seven students short on role.

Miss Bate explained there had been two new students since the document was distributed. Current Y10, soon to be Y11, is the year the academy is below, however it would be unusual for student movement in Y11. Mr Day is currently underway with appeals, with more potential students expected to be successful in their appeal.

A governor stated as good as the attendance figures are compared to national figures, they are below for Hodgson historically.

Miss Bate explained since covid, attendance has taken a knock and staff are working tirelessly to increase student attendance.

8. MAT Update

The document was distributed to governors at the meeting.

This item was deemed to be confidential.

9. Educational Visits

The educational visits document was distributed to governors at the meeting.

The type B educational visit to Winmarleigh was approved by governors.

10. Governor Training

Governors were reminded to complete the safeguarding training. Miss Bate to find governors outstanding.

Miss Bate

Miss Harvey explained she would be in contact with governors who have a DBS older than five years.

Mr McConnachie completed the LINK training for Governors.

11. Any other business

The Chair explained the policy update will be moved to the next meeting.

Mr Siddall

Changes to policies to be highlighted.

Mr Siddall

Papers to be sent out seven days in advance.

Clerk

12. Confidentiality

There were items in points 8 and 11 deemed to be of a confidential nature and minuted as such.

13. Date/times 2023/24 meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th September at 4.30pm.