

Championing human-scale, whole education that is tailored to meet the needs of individuals in the context of their communities

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Governing Body** *held online Thursday 22 February 2024*

Membership: Enita Andrews (Vice-Chair) Rachel Purnell (Headteacher) Darrell Chainey Ed Jones

Kate Cravero (to item ) Arthur Llewellyn Rachel Laurie Paul Spencer David Knight

In attendance: Rebecca Comyns (Business Manager - to item 8), Mel Hillman (Temporary Clerk)

	Item	Owner	Action
1	<b>Welcome from the Chair:</b> Jennie White had sent apologies so Enita Andrews assumed the Chair for the meeting and welcomed everyone especially David Knight who was attending his first full meeting as a Governor.		
2	<b>Apologies:</b> were received and accepted from Jennie White.	Clerk	
3	<b>Declarations of Business Interest:</b> There were no declarations of business interests on the current agenda.	All	
4	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 14 December 2023 were APPROVED.</p> <p>The following matters arising were noted:</p> <p>a) Item 10 Eat Cary. The Headteacher confirmed that she and the Business Manager had met with Eat Cary to discuss how to proceed. The firm understood the position A legal document had been received and passed to the Academy solicitors for checking. The process was still ongoing</p> <p>b) Query about contract with auditors: We tendered around 18 months ago and as they are on a government list of recommended auditors, no further due diligence is deemed necessary.</p> <p>c) Query about projected deficit: Falling student numbers which reduces income, and inflationary pressures increasing cost, are eroding reserves. Whilst previous projections have proved overly prudent, current reserves are lower and there's a much higher chance of running out of money than previously. The academy is continually reviewing all expenditure, the curriculum and staff structures to manage the situation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Head</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Head</p>	<p>RP/DC</p>

#### Three Core Functions of the Governing Body

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- b) Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

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5	<p><b>Committee Meeting Reports</b></p> <p>a) FBAR – there had been no meeting since the last FGB meeting.</p> <p>b) C &amp; S. Kate Cravero commented that there had been an excellent presentation from the Art Faculty. Rachel Laurie had attended as an observer and considered ways that the work of the committees could be aligned. She suggested that other Governors attended other committees to gain a wider insight into the work of the school.</p> <p>There had been a useful Teaching and Learning Report and an update on the progress of the Raising Achievement Plan.</p> <p>The Data Headlines showed a positive picture at this point for Year 11 and the Careers Report showed that the Work Experience programme was heading in the right direction for those students involved.</p> <p>c) CCW. Rachel Laurie had attended the C &amp; S committee. This had widened her knowledge and she urged others to do likewise. The Behaviour Report and data showed that small numbers were skewing data. However, interventions were in place and having a positive effect in keeping students on track. There had been a helpful overview of the tracking tool for exclusions and identifying gaps.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Report had been discussed and the Team had explained some of the means of support for peer on peer abuse including communication methods such as the ‘Tell me’ app.</p> <p>There was a further discussion on how the Team was keeping up to date on national trends including right-wing extremism and the preventative measures in place.</p> <p>The absence figures for Year 9 students were discussed and the interventions in place. The Headteacher was asked whether the absence figures were a concern. Another Governor commented that the clear interventions were reassuring. The Headteacher added that there were high levels of genuine sickness absences across the year groups in the period reported on.</p> <p>The Personnel Report had noted the level of staff absences and the support systems in place.</p> <p>The Leave of Absence and Drugs Policies had been agreed.</p>	Committee Chairs	ALL
6	<p><b>Pupil Numbers Forecast</b></p> <p>The Business Manager confirmed that the future forecast figures were not yet available from Somerset Council. However, the last published data indicates evidence of falling rolls across secondary school nationally and in Somerset. The last forecast showed around 100 less children in the</p>		

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	<p>school catchment area over the next 5 years. There had been some fluctuations for Ansford but no real patterns had been identified for detailed planning. The final list for the new intake in September 2024 was expected by 1 March 2024. The anticipated number was lower than anticipated and the potential range discussed. One Governor noted that there would be 116 leavers in next years' Year 11 and this reduction would have an impact.</p> <p>In answer to a question about future staffing, the Business Manager confirmed that the Redundancy Procedures were in place. SLT were looking at the viability of option and tutor groups provision. This would be fundamental to the future functioning of the school. A Governor asked how accurate these forecasts were. The Business Manager replied that the National picture was not yet clear. The Headteacher added that all Trusts needed to look at the implications and future options as outlined in the Academies Benchmark Report 2024.</p>		
7	<p><b>Redundancy Reports</b></p> <p>The school had looked at Redundancy Procedures adopted by the Local Authority and approved in consultation with the Unions. Due to the time frames needed to manage the procedure in time to have an impact for September, it was requested that the procedures were considered for approval and then they could be invoked as necessary. Governors would be required for any Appeals Panels.</p> <p>The Redundancy Procedures and Policy were AGREED.</p>		
8	<p><b>Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Admissions Arrangements. Changes were noted in relation to the school's relationship with The Mendip School The Policy was agreed.</li> <li>b) Gifts and Hospitality. This was unchanged and re-approved.</li> <li>c) Risk Management Strategy. The Business Manager confirmed that would be reviewed at FBAR (on 11 March) and then for SLT consideration before being presented to the next FGB meeting due on 18 March 2024 for further discussion and approval. The whole point was to consider and minimise the potential risks to the operation of Ansford</li> </ul> <p>The Business Manager withdrew from the meeting at this point.</p>		

9	<b>Headteacher's Report</b>		
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	<p>The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The suspension and permanent exclusions data which was part of the data shared at CCW on Page 4 continues to show an improving picture</li> <li>• The Year 11 data shown on Pages 5/6 was shared with C &amp; S shows a positive picture at the same point as to the previous year. • As previously reported, managing staff vacancies and staff absence remains the biggest challenge. The most recent staffing appointments would help fill some areas ready for September 2024.</li> <li>• A Governor asked if the relationship with the Mendip School had ended. The Headteacher replied that there would only be one student for the next academic year and then the relationship would end.</li> <li>• Another question was asked about how the 10 days of support from the MNSP. The Headteacher explained that meetings were underway to plan this. Initially, it would focus on the identified area for development from the Ofsted inspection focused around intervention for the weakest readers.</li> </ul> <p>The Headteacher was thanked for the extensive and informative Report.</p>		
10	<p><b>Ofsted Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Headteacher presented the Ofsted Action Plan which targets the areas for development outlined in the recent Inspection Report and explained how the plan had been tied into the current School Improvement Plan. SLT had tried to inter-link the actions and the Plan had been colour-coded to demonstrate this.</p> <p>A question was asked if Ofsted had looked at the school improvement plan. The Headteacher replied that they had.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to all who had been involved in this process.</p>		

11	<p><b>Compliments and Complaints Reports</b></p> <p>The log sheets had been circulated prior to the meeting and gave an overview. There had been a reduced number of complaints and no patterns were apparent. A question was asked about the complaint about the Art and Design gradings. The Headteacher confirmed that an internal investigation had taken place and the relevant issues had been</p>		
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	addressed. This had centred on the understanding of the Exam Board requirements and a full action plan had been implemented.		
12	<b>Confidential Item</b> – see separate minutes		
13	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>a) Kate Cravero withdrew from the meeting at this point. b) One Governor commented on the high number of University offers being made to ex Ansford students now at Strode College. c) Paul Spencer indicated he could not attend the CCW meeting due on 29 February. Rachel Laurie indicated she would attend the meeting to broaden her knowledge.</p>		RL
14	Calendar of meetings for next term has been circulated.	Clerk	

The meeting ended at 18:35pm

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