

<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF THE GOVERNORS' GOVERNANCE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24th February 2025 AT 6:00PM</p>

Present: Annie Thomson, Jane Walker-Smith, Simon Walsh, Michael Smethers, Richard Sullivan

Apologies: Emma Smith

In attendance: Jo Wiles (Governance Professional)

1. Apologies	Apologies received and approved for Emma Smith.	
2. Conflict of interest	Simon Walsh declared a conflict of interest.	
3. Confidentiality	Colleagues are reminded the minutes remain in draft until they are signed off at the next meeting and should therefore not be shared before signing off, nor the content discussed outside of the meeting.	ALL
4. To receive any other business	Ms Thomson declared that she had an item for any other business.	
5. To receive any correspondence	Mrs Walker-Smith advised that she had received correspondence from a parent asking for the possibility to bring forward a GDC meeting.	
6. To receive and approve previous minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2024 had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>The signed copies of the minutes will be placed in the school file.</p>	
7. Matters arising from the minutes	No outstanding actions.	
8. SEND update	Ms Thomson updated that succession planning was identified in terms of needing a Deputy SENCO to support Sue the current SENCO due to the increasing workload and ill-health and	

	<p>was pleased to confirm that they have now successfully appointed a Deputy SENCO.</p> <p>Following increasing applications from students with EHCP's as well as current students with additional needs or EHCPs has put pressure on the SEND department. Ms Thomson has contacted HCC to seek whether there is a capping point and further clarification and submitted a freedom of information request to find out how many consultations each school were given in St Albans, how many schools were able to meet need. They have responded to say that it would be too large to complete.</p> <p><i>How many students will be entering Y7 in September with an EHCP?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson reported that currently they are expecting 7 students with EHCP's but advised this may change.</p> <p><i>What does Y7 look like in comparison to the number of students with EHCPs in previous years?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson that 7 students would be in line with last years intake and reminded that there are also students that have additional needs but do not have an EHCP in place.</p> <p><i>Do we currently have enough AT's?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson responded that they are currently fully staffed with AT's, in terms of what the budget can support.</p>	
9. Staffing	<p>Ms Thomson informed that the Inset day in January, focussed on behaviour and a further twilight session will take place.</p> <p><i>Have you received an update on what is happening with the increasing Employer NI contributions, in terms of funding?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson advised that they are still waiting to receive communication confirming if there will be any support in terms of funding.</p> <p><i>Are we currently full in all years?</i></p>	

	<p>Ms Thomson informed that Y7 and Y10 are currently full, over pan in Y8 by 2 students and there are currently 3 vacancies in Y9 and a few spaces in Y11.</p> <p>Ms Thomson informed that there are currently adverts for a Science Teacher, a Food Technology Teacher, a Food Technician and Film Studies Teacher. These vacancies can be quite niche to fill and may need to look at appointing teachers from overseas.</p> <p>Ms Thomson advised that vacancies are due to increased family moves out of area and increased educating at home.</p> <p>Ms Thomson updated that 4 staff have been identified with potential performance issues and interventions to support are in place.</p> <p><i>Are there any others you think might resign?</i> Ms Thomson responded that there are potentially a few teachers that are looking at moving.</p> <p>Ms Thomson advised that they are due visits from educationalists overseas who have asked to come and review the inclusive community at Marlborough.</p> <p><i>It was noted that the impact of the incident that took place last year has not impacted student numbers.</i> Ms Thomson advised that there is currently a healthy waiting list for Y7.</p> <p><i>Will there be a requirement under the proposed Wellbeing and Children's Act for Head of Years to have a teaching qualification?</i> Ms Thomson responded that they will keep an eye on requirements but this would impact some staff.</p> <p>Following the Parent questionnaire the school received 353 responses, and 92% commented that they would recommend.</p>	
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	<p><i>Where do we stand in terms of supply staff usage against other local schools?</i></p> <p>Ms Thomson responded that she will raise this at the next STASH meeting to gain insight into what this currently looks like at other schools.</p>	
10. Budget	<p>It was noted that there are concerns over budget next year as there is currently a lot of unknowns in terms of the funding that will be received.</p>	
11. Governing Body Update	<p>Mrs Walker-Smith updated that the Governing Body is almost full and are waiting on DBS clearance for a new parent governor.</p>	
12. To agree a draft agenda for the next Full Governing Body Meeting	<p>The following items will be reviewed/ discussed at the FGB Meeting on Thursday 20th March 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering Presentation • School Leaders • Committee updates • Employment Rights Bill presentation - Richard Atterton • Reflect and review impact of School Improvement Plan • Invite new staff to attend to meet Governors • Internship feedback from James Griggs 	
13. To receive any other business	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>James Ottery Health and Safety advisor at HCC visited the school to carry out an assessment on the security of the school. He recommended a double layer of gates at the turning circle at the front to support in increasing security.</p> <p>Quotes received have been for £68k and £78k.</p>	

	Mrs Dean is currently looking to see if a bid can be made to support with funding the installation of these gates.	
14. Date and time of next meeting	Monday 8th June 2025	
15. End of meeting	The meeting ended at 7pm	