

MINUTES FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR HAY-ON-WYE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body of Hay-on-Wye CP School, held on Tuesday 5th July 2022

Present: G Bingham (Chair), M Wright, C Goddard, R Morris (HT), T Stedman (Vice-Chair), J Morgan, G Ratcliffe, L Bourke, L Howard, E Greenow

Clerk: L Llewellyn

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: J Griffiths, B Davies, H Offord

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the governing body held on 10th May 2022 were confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

4. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

HT (RM) highlighted the following from the Headteacher's report:

- Support Visit 3 was very positive, all targets were accomplished. All Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were present. Targets for 2023 were highlighted. Gwyn was very impressed with the literacy and oral skills pupils across all ages demonstrated.
- Pupil attendance has increased and stabilised since Easter 2022
- ALN register remains the same
- Hay, Talgarth & Brecon Sanctuary have proved to be great friends to the school resulting in a group of volunteers supporting pupils in school.
- HT gave a vote of thanks to all staff for their flexibility, dedication and hard work during the last academic year. HT commented that they have been a fantastic support during his first year as a headteacher
- There were no follow up questions

5. NEW CURRICULUM

A summary of the school's new curriculum proposal had been distributed. This is a working document which will be reviewed and updated accordingly to match the school's needs

HT explained that

- The 4 purposes of what pupils want to achieve from their time in Hay school have been discussed and formulated with a strong pupil influence.
- The 4 purposes are worded in a child friendly way and have a corresponding graphic which will be displayed throughout the school so children will have a constant reminder of why they come to school.
- The new curriculum structure will be on the new website and the graphics have been digitalised so can easily be displayed

Governors asked the following questions:

How will children be assessed in future?

HT (RM) responded that the way schools will assess pupils in future is still under review. It is likely that schools will adopt a more holistic approach and pupils will be assessed on their whole performance in school and not rely on test results. MW commented that All Wales Reading tests will still be used to evaluate pupils literacy skills so that lesson plans can be adapted to suit requirements.

How will the new way of assessing pupils affect future Estyn inspections, as in the lack of test results to show performance?

HT commented that this is an evolving situation and some of the guidance on how to assess children is still under review. Estyn are aware of the changes to the new curriculum and will have to adopt new ways of inspecting performance. HT believes that inspections will be more practical and evidenced through talking to more pupils about their school life and how they learn

How does this new curriculum in Primary Schools link to transition to the high school environment?

HT replied that MW / JG have been collaborating with the Y7 lead from Gwernyfed High School and other cluster schools to demonstrate how subjects are taught in primary schools. It is hoped that these methods are adopted by high schools. It is still a work in progress that will continually be evaluated.

What is the school doing to help pupils fulfil their potential after Covid and the education that has been missed?

HT responded that schools' focus has been on ensuring that the emotional and wellbeing of pupils is cared for as a priority. In the recent SV3 visit, Gwyn commented that he was impressed with the level of independent working the current Year 6 pupils are able to do and how they can articulate their feelings

Is it compulsory to send the results of the Welsh National tests out with school reports?

MW replied that for this year, yes and a school was sent out to parents to explain how to interpret the results. In future years schools will not be categorised.

How do the results of Hay pupils who completed the tests compare with other schools in Wales?

MW commented that the results are in line with National trend

Will the assessing pupils with new curriculum generate more work for teachers?

MW commented that possibly initially it could but as staff became familiar with procedures, it shouldn't cause more work as pupils will be continually assessed.

Does your budget match the needs of the new curriculum?

HT replied that the focus of the budget is still ALN considerations, but any training required for the new curriculum, the cluster schools are working together to deliver the training on a cluster basis so costs are shared.

I get the impression that staff are excited by the new curriculum, is this correct?

HT replied that staff are very excited, there is some apprehension but on the whole staff are excited as the new curriculum will give staff the opportunity to be creative

If the new curriculum doesn't work, how long will the Welsh Government keep it in place?

HT replied that they had been given no guidance on how long the curriculum would be in place if it wasn't working. HT believes that there are lots of positives and explained that the strategy that the school has already adopted is to practice across class listen to readers. HT explained that this is where older children ei

listen to or help younger children read. This can give a confidence boost to slower readers in KS2 as they can help the younger ones but at the same time read without feeling inferior to their peers.

6. PROCEDURAL / POLICY REVIEW

Governors reviewed each policy individually. HT pointed that the Whistle Blowing policy will become more important from September 2022.

No amendments were necessary, and the Full Governing Body agreed to adopt and ratify the policies

Governor question: Is there a procedure in place to review all policies in a timely manner?

HT responded that the school has a 3-year policy schedule, and all policies will be amended and sent out for governors for review at the allotted time.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) HT reported that a resignation from FM had been received. HT commented that FM had been a valued member of staff for Hay Primary School for the last 16 years and would undoubtedly be missed. Her reasons for leaving were to pursue a new career in adult care and relocation to the Builtth Wells area. HT wished FM well and thanked her on behalf of the FGB for all her hard work (Action: Chair to respond to FM)
- b) HT reported that due to personal reasons and health issues, SG has requested to reduce her teaching hours to 4 days per week. Governor question: is SLT confident that a change in teachers doesn't have detrimental effect on pupils? A discussion followed about the pros and cons of job sharing, whilst all the governing body recognised the positives and negatives, the FGB agreed to accept SG's request to reduce hours to a 4-day week. NH has agreed to cover the 5th day for the next academic year on a fixed term basis. HT commented that this solution will allow for continuity.
- c) HT read out a request from S&G Sparkling Clean to increase their hourly charge for the cleaning contract to £15 per hour. Governors discussed this request and concluded that further information was required before a formal decision was made:
 - HT to seek advice from financial officer as to what effect the increase would have on the budget
 - HT to find out how much it would cost to employ a cleaner
 - HT will write to S & G Sparkling Clean to explain that the earliest this decision could be made was September once the FGB had all the information to hand and if agreed the new change would not be implemented until October 2023
- d) Two quotes had been received in relation to the proposed entrance to the forest school area, After a robust discussion about the discrepancies of the quotes received, governors requested:
 - HT develop a written specification of what was required so companies could quote like for like
 - JM will approach third company for quote once written specification finished
- e) FGB considered the letter received from Cllr William Lloyd about representation from the Llanigon community and the Gwernyfed community on Hay Primary Governing Body. After a discussion the governors concluded the following:

- Chair will write to Llanigon council to ask for representation on Hay Primary Governing Body
- Chair will write to Gwernyfed Community Council to invite them to forward the name of a person they would like to be considered as a community governor

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- HT notified governing body that Gwernyfed High School has appointed an executive head teacher. The letter has been circulated to all governors
- Governor question: Can HT clarify the new class structure regarding teachers for September 2023 as there is much speculation amongst parents? HT responded that there is a structure in principle but has yet to be confirmed.
- Governor question: Can the HT clarify the situation regarding KJ as there is much playground gossiping about her circumstance and parents were asking for further information. Vice Chair suggested that any governors that were approached about KJ, should not engage in a conversation but should point the interested parties to contact HT directly
- HT gave a vote of thanks to the governing body for all the support he has received during his first year, especially from the Chair. HT stated he was massively proud of the school and the welcome he has received
- Chair reciprocated with a vote of thank to HT and all staff for all their hard work this academic year
- Chair thanked FGB for their attendance and participation, it was very much appreciated

Next meeting: 27th September 2022 (including AGM)

Date:	27 th September 2022
Name:	Gordon Bingham
Signed:	