

HAY-ON-WYE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body of Hay-on-Wye CP School, held on Tuesday 31st January 2023. This meeting was held via Teams

Present: G Bingham (Chair), M Wright, R Morris (HT), J Morgan, G Ratcliffe, L Bourke, L Howard, H Offord (Vice Chair), T Stedman, D Rutter, J Griffiths, M Wright, B Davies.

Clerk: L Llewellyn

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: J Dodds, E Greenow

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the governing body held on 15th November 2022 were confirmed and will be signed by the chair as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair has advised that H Offord is willing to be vice chair. Governors were happy with this. This was proposed by T Stedman and seconded by G Ratcliffe. All governors agreed.

Clerk explained that, as in the last governor body, governors decided to remain at 18 in number the vacancies remaining are 1 parent governor, 1 community governor and 1 LEA (Local Education Authorities) governor. Do governors want the clerk to advertise for the parent governor? It was agreed to advertise the parent governor vacancy via Schoop.

Action: Parent Governor vacancy to be advertised via Schoop

R. Morris was pleased to announce that Dr Diana Rutter had agreed to become a community governor. Dr Rutter is a retired paediatrician and has a wealth of experience and has been volunteering in the school for several years. Dr Rutter's application had been accepted by Powys County Council.

Chairperson proposed that Dr Rutter be accepted onto the governing body. Proposed by G Ratcliffe, seconded by L Howard. All Governors agreed.

5. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

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

- Pupil numbers are looking healthy for September 2023. Currently 23 children have applied to joined reception in September and we lose 21 will go up to high school. So, our numbers on roll should not drop so we will be in a strong position'
- Staff CPD log has been updated. L Howard has been into school to conduct a numeracy and mental arithmetic report with pupils, supported by M Wright. The report has been written and filed
- G Williams our support officer school support is going to come in this this term to do a session of monitoring with Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which will be nice. GW offered to do that to work with us not to scrutinise but to support how we do our monitoring and to see that we're doing it well. He wants to be involved because he has a first-hand knowledge of standards

- The next financial surgery was booked for a day which is now a strike day so that's being rearranged, and we have not had a date yet from finance

Governor question: Is the authorised absence figure down to flexi schooling? HT (RM) confirmed that yes it is as currently Welsh government do not recognise flexi schooling, however they are allowing us to put a C mark on the register an authorised absence, but it is still classed as an absence.

Governor question: You say that senior leadership team have looked at the school development plan, is that plan coming to governors to review? HT (RM) responded that SLT have only recently completed the SDP so is still in a draft format but will be available to review at the next meeting.

Governor question: Are we confident that the date on the Welsh Government website is accurate, currently the Welsh Government website, mylocalschool.gov is showing pupil numbers at 161 with a budget of £4372 per pupil so we can ensure that we're getting the right level of payment? HT (RM) replied that he was unsure of the exact figure per pupil off the top of his head but any update to pupil numbers is reported to our finance officer. Clerk confirmed that when pupils join or leave mid-year, financial adjustments are made accordingly.

Action: HT will confirm budget per pupil with finance officer at next financial surgery

- HT (RM) asked governors if they were happy to increase breakfast club daily fee from £1.25 to £1.50 per pupil to reflect the increase in cost in overheads and if so, I need to reflect that the change in the Breakfast Club policy.

Governor Comment: 'that is reasonable although it would be nice to keep it at the same price for parents with all the costs going up. I think as a school we must cover those extra utility bills increase in food bills and everything else. My children use it, but I would be happy to pay an extra 25p a day per child.'

Governor question: Are we aware of any families that use breakfast club that would struggle to pay this increase? HT (RM) responded that he did not know if there are any.

A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of putting the fee up and when the increase would come into force. Governors were concerned that the families who needed help the most would not be penalised. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for meeting in March 2023.

Action: HT (RM) to collate data on breakfast club and report back at next meeting

- There were no further questions for the HT (RM)

6. BUDGET / ICT SPEND

Clerk apologised that she had made an error and that this item should not be on the agenda.

7. FOREST SCHOOL HANDBOOK

All governors now had access to the document. Chair asked governors if they had any questions.

Governor questions: The document does not reference the forest school at the Warren at all and it only talks about the Forest School being on one site, will this be updated? HT (RM) confirmed that the document will be updated and that the risk assessment would be rewritten to reflect the additional site.

J Morgan commented that he had a meeting with S Gregory and S Goddard on site last Thursday plus members from Warren Trust and Hay Woodland Group and everybody was happy with it and are looking forward to using it. J Morgan confirmed that the site is ready to be used and there is just some dead wooding

left to complete. HT (RM) commented that the risk assessment would be updated swiftly and that it would be a wonderful asset for the school.

8. OTHER ITEMS.

HT (R Morris) attended a Cluster Heads meeting yesterday where the forthcoming strike action was discussed. He explained that as you are not supposed to ask staff if they are planning on striking or which union they are in plus they are not obliged to tell you even if you do ask, HT (RM) was not able to plan which classes could be open or what ratio of staff to pupils would be so the risk assessment necessitated that the school will be closed to pupils on the strike day. HT (RM) does not know who will be working tomorrow and who will not. Powys have asked for the date on staff absences for tomorrow, but I've been told not to supply data on which staff are working or planning to strike and to not engage with parents on this. Parents can write to Powys' director of Education to express any comments or concerns. HT (R Morris) informed governors that if the governing body wanted to send out anything to parents, it is suggested that the message would be along the lines of this strike is happening to ensure quality of teaching in the future for our children.

Governor questions: Have you had many parents ask to speak to you about the strike? HT (RM) confirmed that only one parent had told him that he would not be having any complaints from his family as they fully supported the strike.

Governor comment: 'That is good, and it is interesting because I have three children in three different Powys schools and have had three different communications of the same information from head teachers. I am really impressed with the communication from you as there has been no bias either way which I think is a positive. I think you know as a parent find that quite good because some of the other schools, I am completely aware who is and who is not striking, and I do not think that is fair on staff, parents, or pupils. I do not feel we need to give any further information'

HT (R Morris) stated that because the Teaching Assistants (TAs) will be in school tomorrow, it will be a good opportunity to meet with them and complete housekeeping jobs. HT (R Morris) has bought cakes for the TAs.

Chair closed the meeting by thanking everybody for participating and expressing how much their contribution is valued. The Chair also thanked HT (Morris), SLT and staff of Hay-on-wye Primary school for all their hard work and everything that they do during challenging times, it is really appreciated. Chair commented that it was lovely to have Diana join the meeting and that he was looking forward to working with her.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Tuesday 14th March 2023 6pm (in person)
Tuesday 9th May 2023 6pm (online vis Teams)
Tuesday 11th July 2023 6pm (in person)

Minutes signed as correct:

Date:	16.5.23.
Name:	Gordon Bingham.
Signed:	

