

**ST HELENS COUNCIL
COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2020 VIA TEAMS**

Present: Co-opted Governors
Mrs Margaret Bellis
Mr Paul Worthington
Mrs Elaine Hardie
* Mr Geoffrey Appleton
* Mrs Kathryn Campbell
Colonel Stephen P Boardman MBE DL
* Mr Russell Cormack
* Mr Innes Arnold
Mr Garry Anders
Mr Carlo Amadio
* Justine Kellett

Parent Governors
Mrs Lileena Denny
Miss Shana Begum

Staff Governors
* Mr Cameron Sheeran (Headteacher)
* Lynne Sayle

Local Authority Governor
* Cllr Mancyia Uddin

* Denotes members present

Also present: Mrs M Foster, Governor Support Services, Acting as Clerk to the
Governing Body

PART 1

Mr Appleton took the Chair as the Chair was having difficulties accessing the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT TO ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr C Amadio, Mr G Anders, Mrs M Bellis, Mrs E Hardie, Mr P Worthington and Mrs L Denny.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND ANNUAL DECLARATION

Governors were invited to declare whether they had any interests in any items on the agenda for the meeting. No declarations were made.

3. GOVERNOR MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Justine Kellett was welcomed as a new Co-opted Governor and Mrs Lynne Sayle was welcomed as the new Staff Governor. Introductions were made. The reconstitution proposal circulated prior to the meeting was approved. There were therefore no vacancies on the Governing Body.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

6. MINUTES FROM FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes from the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting held on 17th November 2020 were noted.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

The recommendations from the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting held on 17th November 2020 were approved subject to the correct logo being included on the front page.

9. MINUTES OF THE PUPIL BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

Mrs Campbell fed back from the Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 5th November 2020. Governors were informed that students had also attended the meeting to give their views and the agenda included attendance and behaviour, including issues caused by Covid. Discussion also took place about Black Lives Matters and the initiatives within the PSHE programme. The school dog was also the subject of discussion.

Governors asked for their thanks to be passed on to Miss Rowlands for her work and wished her well in her future endeavours as she would be leaving Cowley at Christmas.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PUPIL BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

11. MINUTES OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

Mrs Campbell fed back from the Quality of Education Committee meeting held on 5th November 2020. Governors were informed that the agenda included progress of all students in terms of how they had all managed to keep on learning throughout. There had been obvious issues but preparations for assessments and examinations were going ahead as normal. The Committee looked at the first set of data of the academic year and it was noted that the next data was expected at the January meeting.

Governors were informed that Deborah Faulkner had attended to talk about Sixth form numbers and progress. It was noted that there was a positive picture, in particular in terms of marketing and it was noted that numbers were in line with previous years.

A curriculum update was provided at the meeting; there were no major changes to note. Discussion had also taken place about the different strategies for teaching and learning, home learning and the issues around staff having to isolate at home and how that was working.

Staff CPD and retrieval strategies were also discussed.

Governors were informed disadvantaged students were discussed and positive feedback was received about the help and support, including laptops, being provided. Mr Sheehan informed Governors that a retired HMI had carried out a deep dive of the school's SEND provision and was very impressed. Reports would be shared with Governors at the next meeting. Governors requested inviting the SENCO to attend a future meeting to update on SEND.

12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020

This item was discussed at Item 11 above.

13. SAINTS RENT REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020

Discussion took place about the rent review, the support provided to Cowley and the options for additional support for the school as well as the potential marketing opportunities. Governors were informed of how the rent negotiations were conducted and that both sides were happy with the rent charges.

It was also confirmed that a legionella test had taken place at the Saints site.

The rent review was approved.

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020

See item 13 above.

15. LOCAL AUTHORITY STANDARD ITEMS

Pay Award

Governors were informed that the Finance & Personnel Committee had reviewed the documentation and recommended Option 3 be adopted. This was ratified.

16. POLICY REVIEW

There were no policies for review at the meeting.

17. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) AND SELF-EVALUATION

Governors were informed that school was still working on the Resumption Plan, but it was hoped that by the next FGB meeting it would have moved back to the College Improvement Plan.

It was noted that all the things set out in the Resumption Plan had been done. In relation to remote learning/blended learning, Governors were advised that it had been unbelievably tough on staff to be able to manage all the movement around the school to ensure students did not mix. For practical subjects being taught in a non-practical classroom it had been incredibly challenging. However, Leadership had been making things happen and the term had gone unbelievably quickly.

Governors thanked the Executive Headteacher and asked for thanks to be passed on to all staff, wishing them a really good break, keeping safe and well and ready for January.

Governors asked if the Catch up Plan had been put in place and were informed that last term school had employed two Key Stage 2 teachers to support the new Year 7s as well as intervention groups in Years 7 and 8. This also meant that English and Maths teachers could be released. There was a graduated response for catch up, with period 6 on Monday and Thursday, and additional strategies available if needed.

18. GOVERNORS' FORUM

This item was not discussed.

19. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Governors thanked the Executive Headteacher for the school newsletter and commented on its excellent content, quality and design. Governors asked if the masks were being marketed for sale and were informed that they were not at the moment.

Discussion also took place about the school therapy dog and it was noted that he was not attending lessons and was based in the ESU so was not likely to spread Covid, if pets could do such a thing.

20. SCHOOL LOGOS

Three logos were presented for consideration by Governors. It was explained that school would also like to re-establish a Founders Day to promote and celebrate the history of Cowley.

Governors agreed that school had a rich heritage, and it would be remiss not to let every generation of students understand and celebrate that. Governors liked the fact that "founded in 1716" was included in the logo and commended the idea of bringing back a service to reinforce the history of the College. In principle, Governors were happy with the addition of the words "Founded in 1716".

However, concerns were raised about changing the logo without good reason, particularly given that the current logo was etched in glass in school and there were other similar historical items. It was suggested that if there was to be a wholesale re-branding, this would need to be a business decision.

It was agreed to have a wider discussion around the proposed logo change and Cowley's heritage/legacy at the next meeting when more Governors would be present.

It was noted that Mr McCormack had also written a proposal about reintroducing Founders Day.

21. INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Governors were informed that the Camps International trip to Tanzania had been re-planned for July 2021; this would involve three students from Year 12 and 13. A New York trip had also been scheduled for February 2022.

Mr Sheeran left the meeting at 6.00pm.

22. WELLBEING OF STUDENTS

Mr McCormack advised Governors that the overwhelming majority of students had managed really well but a lot of mental health and anxiety issues were being seen from students and parents, and this was putting a lot of pressure and work on the pastoral staff.

Governors asked whether support was being provided from professionals and were advised that this was not happening at the present time. It was noted that there was a proposal to have a team around the school approach, but details had not yet been received.

Governors were informed that the Year 11 exams had gone well, although there were concerns about the change in the exam arrangements for the end of the year. It was noted that the change in timing meant that the same space would not be available. It was also noted that Mrs Campbell had been involved in the mock interviews for Sixth Form students; it was asked that the College be informed that the students involved had been very well prepared, thoughtful, engaged and had been an absolute pleasure to meet.

23. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

The NGA Learning Link information was received and noted.

24. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th February 2021 at 5.00pm.

25. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters for discussion at the meeting.

Signed.....Chairperson Date.....