

**ST HELENS COUNCIL
COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2021 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)
* Ms 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

1. APOLOGIES AND CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT TO ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs Lileena Denny.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

It was noted that Co-opted Governors Mr C Amadio and Mr P Worthington's terms of office were due to end on 22nd March 2021. It was agreed to co-opt both for a further 4 year term of office.

It was also noted that Parent Governor Mrs L Denny's term of office was also due to end on 22nd March 2021. It was agreed that a Parent Governor election would be carried out by the school.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to changing "McCormack" to "Cormack".

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting held on 19th January 2020 were received and noted.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2021

There were no matters arising from the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND PREMISES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2021

The following recommendations from the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting were received and discussed:

- NQT policy: The policy was approved.

- Exam fees: Governors approved the payment of £73,726.76 to Pearson Education Limited for examination fees.

Q: Did we receive any refund from last year's exam fees?

A: No, we still had to pay the fees, but we received a slight reduction.

9. MINUTES FROM THE PUPIL, BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

The Committee Chair fed back from the Pupil, Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee meeting and the minutes were received and noted.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUPIL, BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

The Committee Chair commented that Cowley staff had gone over and above what was expected of them during lockdown, going the extra mile to keep the children safe, educated and engaged, as well as upholding the standards school expected. It was agreed that this should be recognised at an appropriate time and for Governors to show their appreciation in some way. The Headteacher advised that the situation was very challenging for staff, but a recent parent survey had resulted in some very positive feedback. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee meeting.

Governors also commended the students and their parents for their efforts.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PUPIL, BEHAVIOUR AND WELLBEING

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

The following recommendations from the Pupil, Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee meeting were received and discussed:

- Governors agreed the Accessibility Plan.
- Governors agreed the Children with Health Needs who Can't Attend School Policy.
- Governors agreed the Designated Teacher for LAC and PLAC.
- Governors approved the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

12. MINUTES FROM THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

The minutes from the Quality of Education Committee meeting held on 7th January 2020 were received and noted. The Committee Chair fed back and thanked Governors for their attendance at the meeting. Governors were informed that the SENCO had attended the meeting to update on her work and would continue to keep the Committee regularly updated. Discussion also took place about the curriculum review planned for September, the deep dives which were still continuing and disadvantaged students.

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021

There were no matters arising from the Quality of Education Committee meeting.

14. LOCAL AUTHORITY STANDARD ITEM Appointment of the Clerk

Governors agreed to appoint St Helens Governor Services as Clerk for FGB meetings only.

15. POLICY REVIEW

Policies were discussed and approved under Committee reports above.

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

The Headteacher provided a verbal report and Governors were advised the school was still operating under the resumption plan as it was still unclear when schools would be returning to full opening. However, it was noted that the plan was updated fortnightly in response to the ever changing circumstances and a plan was ready for when the Government made an announcement.

Governors were informed that there was still a lack of clarity about this year's examinations, which was proving very challenging. It was known, however, that Year 10s would be sitting vocational examinations this year, but it was still unclear about others.

Discussion took place about the considerations for re-opening schools, including capacity within the NHS locally.

Governors were advised that the return to school plan and long term plans were on the agendas for the next Committee meetings.

It was agreed that consideration should be given at Committee meetings to any positive learning from lockdown so that school could embrace some of the changes experienced, e.g. use of technology, in the future to enhance the school's provision.

17. SCHOOL LOGO

This item had been discussed at the last meeting where changes to the school logo were proposed.

Governors were advised that discussion had taken place about the reintroduction of Founders Day and it was noted that this was being progressed.

Discussion about the motto, particular as it was in Latin and this was no longer taught in school. A number of governors favoured retaining the motto in Latin and it was proposed that Founders Day could be used to explain this as part of the College's history.

Governors were invited to join a working party to organise Founders Day for the Summer 2021. Governors also suggested inviting some young people to join the working party and it was agreed to involve the Student Council. It was agreed an e-mail would be sent to Governors when a date and time was organised.

18. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter was noted and well received.

Q: Did we do a press release on the Manga triumph?

A: We would have done, but it was not necessarily taken up.

It was suggested that social media could also be utilised to promote the school's successes.

Q: Do we think that lockdown has had any impact on Sixth Form numbers for next year?

A: We are carrying on with recruitment as normal, although we are doing this using Teams. Numbers are at this point equal to previous years; however the concern is going to be students falling between the cracks. Discussion took place about NEET numbers in St Helens which were currently the best ever. Also, in terms of university, it was recently reported that numbers of young people were taking up Higher Level Apprenticeships instead.

Governors suggested asking some of the school's recent former students to share their experiences on the Sixth Form website, both in relation to apprenticeships and university. It was noted that this was already being done but could be increased.

Governors were advised that all external interviews for the Sixth Form had taken place, with internal interviews due to take place after half term.

It was also suggested that school could collaborate with local universities, e.g. Edge Hill or Liverpool universities. Ms Uddin also agreed to sit on a Panel to share her university experiences with students.

19. WELLBEING OF STUDENTS

The Staff Governor was asked to provide a report on the wellbeing of students at the next meeting.

20. GOVERNORS' FORUM

There was nothing to report regarding Governors' Forum, however the Chair advised that she had applied to attend an on-line training course, but it had been postponed due to technical issues. She would be attending the new date when available.

Mrs Campbell advised that she had attended two training courses, both online - Pupil Exclusions and A Governors Guide to being Inspection Ready. Both courses were highly recommended to other Governors.

21. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 1st April 2021 at 5.00pm

22. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters for discussion at the meeting.

SignedChairperson Date.....