

ST HELENS COUNCIL

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Governing Body
Cowley International College
held on Thursday 13 July 2023 at 5pm

Members:

Co-opted Governors

*Mr G Anders
*Mr I Arnold
*Mrs M Bellis
*Mr R Cormack
Mrs J Kellett
Mr N Rouch
Mr P Worthington
*Mrs Stacey Hill
Vacancy 1
Vacancy 2
Vacancy 2

Parent Governors

*Mr Ross Foster
*Mr Karl Van Der Laan

Staff Governors

*Mr C Sheeran (Headteacher)
*Mr J Hunt

Local Authority Governor

Vacancy

*Denotes Members Present

Also Present:

Mrs J Hitchen, Governor Support Services
Acting as Clerk to the Governing Body

1. Apologies and Consideration of Consent to Absence

Apologies had been received from Justine Kellett, Paul Worthington and Nigel Rouch.

All apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest. The chair advised all governors to please update any declarations on Governorhub if not already up to date.

3. Governor Membership

The Chair expressed his thanks to all Governors, there had been 3 new joiners recently and there had been significant loss to the FGB, of long serving Governors with lots of knowledge.

It was noted the Staff had gone through a difficult year following recovering from covid pandemic, working towards academisation and a change in SLT and leadership. Executive Principal puts a great deal of effort in, along with all staff and Governors who attend and support the sports/musical awards ceremonies and the Prom which was an excellent event. Mr Cormack thanked all Governors for going above and beyond in all areas, participation rates are excellent in Cowley.

Q – The vacancy for L/A governor, is Cllr Burns filling this role?

A – Mr C Sheeran confirmed he will be contacting Cllr Burns to invite him to attend school to explore his interest.

Vacancies are noted and action to recruit to these is ongoing. Governors to update any outstanding documents on Govhub, DBS required for S Hill.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25 May 2023

These were held to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the above minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Minutes from the Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on the 8 June 2023.

These were held to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

7. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising from this meeting.

8. Recommendations from the Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee meeting

There were no recommendations to agree.

9. Minutes from the Quality of Education Committee Meeting held on the 8 June 2023

These were held to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

10. Matters Arising Quality of Education Committee Meeting

There were no matters arising. It was noted to use Governors initials in the narrative of the minutes moving forward, when conversations are ongoing, as it can get confusing.

11. Recommendations from Quality of Education Meeting

There were no recommendations to agree.

12. Local Authority Standard Items

There were no further LA items for consideration this term.

13. Policy Review

- Attendance Policy

Policy presented to Governors, stating could be most important, as need to respond to national attendance target, this is under scrutiny as part of the attendance hub. Pre covid national percentage was 95%, school is striving towards 90% after covid, which is seen as acceptable, and staff and school doing all they can to improve this.

Q – As the policy states it is the parents' responsibility to ensure school attendance, they need to be made aware of this, as some parents do not read information provided.

A – This policy is a statutory policy and not made to be sent out to parents.

Mr Sheeran pointed out, there is evidence showing from Dfe attendance data that a dip was showing in 2017/18 and then exacerbated by covid, and parents attitude following this.

14. College Improvement Plan (CIP)

Mr R Cormack presented the report, this was included in the agenda pack for Governors to read and note. The current academic year, students had made a strong start when came back following difficulties previously due to covid.

RC pointed out that some of aspects of the CIP are new and a separate part for Governor's development was included, page 36. This provides information to all Governors regarding, learning, skills audit, leadership and governance, particularly with moving towards academisation.

15. Financial Management

- Receive and Discuss finance update including 3 year projection (SFVS requirement)

	Total Resources £	Projected Expenditure £	Surplus / Deficit £
2023/24	12940,088	12,061,700	878,388
2024/25	12,023,260	12,006,108	17,152
2025/26	11,214,765	11,974,915	-760,150

The main news today is that Government announced 6.5% pay rise for teachers, yet school needs to find 3-4% of this from budget. School budget in line to reflect a 3.5% increase.

Q – Do we have an update on the figures included in this table?

A – Not accurately currently.

Governors are signing off on these figures, as no significant change expected. If anything changes with this all Governors will be contacted.

Governors agreed and accepted.

16. Staffing Structure 2023/24

- Approval of the staffing structure for the 2023-24 academic year

This had been discussed at the committee meeting. The only outstanding action is to appoint to 2 internal positions and confident this will be achieved.

17. School Newsletter

An update regarding the newsletter was delivered. Particular mention regarding year 13 leavers celebration, which was enjoyed by students and staff. Head boy and girl gave speeches, Maja (head girl) expressed how she had the best 7 years at Cowley and would do it all again. School had also organised a parents evening for year 6 pupils to attend with their families, this was well supported by years 7 and 13 students.

Q – What happens to the photographs in school of students, as they will be replaced in September, do the pupils have them to take home, parents and grandparents would be happy with them and also a good marketing tool?

A – The pupils have many photographs and memories, and all of these are shared on social media and liked, which is a marketing tool in itself.

Mr Sheeran spoke about the annual year 8 trip to Quinta, which was very well attended and enjoyed by staff too, a group of year 13 students volunteered to assist the leadership team and set a fine example to the pupils.

18. International Trips

Trips and opportunities available to pupils in Cowley, other schools may not get this.

France trip for the New year

Camp international – Kenya

Also agreed for the next 2 years trip to Cambodia

19. Wellbeing of Students

Update – exam cycles heavily dominate this term. Thank you to all staff for preparations and work as students move onto years 7 – 10, and year 12. Current year 12 had progression week organised by the 6th form team, large universities attended and external speakers providing information to students.

Thank you to staff for organising years 11 and 13 proms which were hugely successful. Various events had taken place –

- Founders day – Governors and staff were thanked for their input.
- Sports day – competitiveness of pupils was noted.
- Summer concert 17 July – well attended and showcased lots of talent.
- Rewards continuing for years 7 onwards.
- Attendance still a priority, though strike days have made this difficult.

Q - Was Thursday, which was in between 2 strike days, showing attendance down?

A – 84% in so not really too bad. School moved planned days around, kept taster days running, year 10 were in this day, Sports day moved to Thursday from Friday.

20. Governor Development

The Chair recommended governors attend training and stated that there were lots of courses on offer covering a wide variety of subjects and encouraged them to take advantage of them and to feed back to the board. Check all Governors are up to date with training.

21. Full Governing Board Meeting Dates for the 2023-24 Academic Year

Full list of dates provided to Governors.

22. Urgent Matters

There were not matters to discuss.

Signed Dated
Chairperson