

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Cowley International College held on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 5:00 pm

Members:

Staff Governors

*Mr C Sheeran (Executive Principal)
*Mr J Hunt

Parent Governors

*Mr Ross Foster
*Mr K Van Der Laan

Local Authority Governor

*Cllr A Burns

Co-opted Governors

*Mr G Anders
Mr I Arnold
*Mrs M Bellis
*Mr R Cormack
Mrs J Kellett
Mr P Worthington
*Mrs S Hill
*Ms A Farrell
Vacancy 2
Vacancy 2

* Denotes members present

Also Present:

Mrs P Gray, Governor Support Services,
Acting as Clerk to the Governing Body

Part 1

1. Apologies and Consideration of Consent to Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Arnold and Mr Worthington. After due consideration, Governors consented to their absence.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no new declarations of interests. Governors were reminded of the process for declaring any new interests on Governor Hub.

3. Governor Membership

The Chair welcomed Angela Farrell as a newly appointed Co-opted Governor. Ms Farrell has brought her identification documents in today to progress the DBS application.

Kerry Callaghan has been removed from the Governing Body as an Associate member.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 26th October 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and will be signed by the Chair on Governor Hub.

5. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Minutes from Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2023

The Governing Body noted the minutes.

7. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

It was noted that poor attendance is a crisis both locally and nationally; Cowley is doing everything in its power to improve attendance. Y9 and Y10 are of the most concern in respect of poor attendance. Y11 had a massive bounce in attendance when the mock exams were taking place. Free School Meal (FSM) students are having the greatest impact on attendance.

Mr Foster stated a text meeting regarding attendance is being sent on Friday, which may jolt some parents into realising the impact of poor attendance on the education and progress of their children.

A parent has donated a Playstation for next Friday's event.

Governor comment: The Head of Young Carers is having some trouble with parents not sending their children into schools.

Staff commented that there is a regular group of students who do not attend school; home visits are carried out by staff to these families.

8. Recommendations from Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2023

See item 20

9. Minutes from Quality of Education Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2023

The Governing Body noted the minutes. Mrs Hall fed back to Governors that the main item of discussion was the curriculum plan which involved a presentation from staff. There are plans for improvement in maths.

10. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

11. Recommendations from Quality of Education Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2023

See item 20

12. Minutes from Finance, Personnel & Premises Committee Meeting held on 30th November 2023

Governors noted the minutes.

13. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

14. Recommendations from Finance, Personnel & Premises Committee Meeting held on 30th November 2023

See item 20

15. Local Authority Standard Items

There were no items for consideration from the Local Authority.

16. Financial Management

Receive and discuss finance update including 3 year projection (SFVS requirement).

The Executive Principal reported that the financial position remained largely as it was presented in the last meeting. Governors were invited to ask any questions; there were no questions raised.

	Total Resources £	Projected Expenditure £	Surplus/Deficit £
2023/2024	12,998,348	11,965,186	1,033,163
2024/2025	12,260,937	12,084,375	176,563
2025/2026	11,263,739	12,038,570	-774,830
2026/2027	10,314,782	12,122,178	-1,807,396

Governors noted the budget position and projections.

17. School Newsletter

The newsletter was included in the agenda bundle.

The Executive Principal directed Governors to the front page article which reported on the award won by Cowley for "Outstanding Commitment to Sport in a

Secondary School.”

The Governing Body were pleased to see this and had no further questions for the Executive Principal concerning the newsletter.

18. International trips

The Executive Principal reported that a group of students were setting off for France that evening, which would be the third international trip this term.

He was very pleased to inform Governors that the Y9 trip to China is happening in summer. The trip is 2 weeks long and paid for by the Chinese government, with £600 paid towards the flights. Pupil premium students will be The College's last trip to China was prior to the Covid lockdown; it will be a fantastic experience for all those going on the trip - we visited the Chinese Embassy on the last trip. This is a big event for the Chinese - there are 1500 students going, the biggest ever international trip.

19. Wellbeing of Students

- A group of Y11 and 6th form students enjoyed a trip to Berlin just before half term.
- A lot of things happening for Y7 this term.
- Y11 mocks took place which ran very smoothly; the message to students is no flagging, don't stop during exams.
- The majority of students immerse themselves in the life of Cowley; poor

behaviour is a concern for the minority.

20. Policy Review

The Governing Body considered the following policies recommended by committees and **approved their adoption and implementation:**

- ✓ Suspension and Permanent Exclusion policy
- ✓ Behaviour policy
- ✓ SEND policy
- ✓ SEND Information Report (School Offer)
- ✓ Pupil Premium Strategy - the Executive Principal noted that Pupil premium numbers were dropping off, now at 39% The college is working with parents to ensure that those entitled to FSM are claiming them - it's a benefit to them and to the school in the region of £500 a year.

Governor comment: the profile of families in the borough is changing, some parents work 3 jobs and are still struggling financially. There is also the “just about managing” group who are not entitled to claim FSM. The Local Authority has welcomed the move to the use of “food pantries” rather than food banks, where vouchers are not required and operate on a small membership fee basis.

The Executive Principal stressed that PP students are not differentiated in college as a group, they are not stigmatised. Pupils are never turned away in the canteen if they have no money to buy food.

21. Governor Development

Governors were reminded of the training available and were asked to consider their individual training needs for the forthcoming year, linked to the SIP/SDP.

22. Date and time of next Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 8th February 2024 at 5pm, in the same room as this evening's meeting.

23. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters raised at the meeting.

No further matters were raised for discussion and the meeting moved on to discuss the Part 2 confidential agenda.

Signed
Chair

Date