

ST HELENS COUNCIL
COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
OF COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2024 AT 5 PM

Members:

(Based on
Constitution = 16)

Co-Opted Governors

Mr Garry Anders (Chair)

*Mrs Stacey Hill (Vice-Chair)

*Mr Innes Arnold

Mrs Margaret Bellis

*Mrs Justine Kellett

*Mrs Angela Farrell

Vacancy (1)

Vacancy (2)

Vacancy (3)

Vacancy (4)

Vacancy (5)

Local Authority Governor

Cllr Anthony Burns

The Principal

*Mr Russell Cormack

Staff Governor

*Mr Corey Gerrard

Parent Governors

Mr Karl Van Der Laan

*Mrs Sharon Ahmed

*denotes those present

Also attending:

Mrs Jennifer Merrills, Governor Services, acting as Clerk
Mr Cameron Sheeran, former Executive Principal (from
5.30pm)

Part 1

1. **Apologies and Consideration of Consent to Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr Anders, Mrs Bellis and Mr Van Der Laan.
Governors consented to their absence.

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Hill in the absence of Mr Anders.

The meeting was quorate, there being 7 Governors of the 11 in post present at the meeting.

Mrs Hill welcomed the newly appointed staff Governor Mr Corey Gerrard to the board, and the board expressed their thanks to the previous Staff Governor Mr James Hunt for all his contributions during his time as Governor.

2. Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were declared.

3. Governor Membership

At the previous board meeting on 17 October 2024, the board voted that Justine Kellett's term of office (which was due to expire) be extended for the usual period of office. Governor Hub has not been updated to reflect this yet.

Action: Governor Services to update Governor Hub with Mrs Kellett's new term of office

Mr Cormack and Mrs Hill updated Governors regarding vacancies.

Mr Cormack has approached two people who both have children at Cowley.

Linda – Former HMI and a former Head Teacher. Has turned a school around from inadequate to outstanding. Is currently the Assistant Principal at Little Lever. Mrs Hill and Mr Cormack gave her a tour of the college and think she will be a real asset to the board. She will likely also be part of Quality of Education and Pupil Wellbeing Committees too. Her daughter is in Sixth Form Year 12, she did not attend Cowley 11-16, she went to a different secondary school.

Clare – Associate Professor who is currently is in charge of the medical programme with Chester Medical School. Mrs Hill and Mr Cormack have also met with her today. Both recommend her to join the board, she has good expertise and links. Her child is currently in Year 8.

Mrs Hill and Mr Cormack recommend to the board that both Linda and Clare should be appointed as Governors.

Question: In terms of the Finance Committee, is this the one we most need expertise in?

Answer: Predominantly yes. Both individuals run departments etc, so are well used to this.

Governors voted to appoint both Linda and Clare as Co-Opted Governors.

Resolved: Linda and Clare appointed as Co-Opted Governors for the usual term of office.

Action: College to liaise with Governor Services regarding new appointments.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 October 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

Mrs Ahmed's DBS is now completed.

Mr Anders is yet to see Mrs Callaghan regarding the SCR, but this is in the process of being arranged.

6. Minutes from Committee Meetings

Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024

Mrs Kellett is recorded in the minutes as being a Parent Governor. She is not, she is a Co-Opted Governor.

The minutes were otherwise approved as a true and accurate record.

Action: Minutes to be amended to reflect correct Governor status for Mrs Kellett.

- Summary:-
- Long discussion re exclusions etc, data needed.
- Long discussion re Behaviour policy, some tweaks suggested, and more data needed.
- We need to ensure we are being inclusive, whilst sticking to the Behaviour Policy.
- Long discussion re Anti-Bullying policy.
- C6 and C7. Mr Cormack said there is going to be some training for Governors regarding being on Permanent Exclusions Panel. At the last Permanent Exclusions Panel we had to use a Governor from another school as we were unable to fulfil the panel from our own Governors.

Quality of Education Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

- Summary:-
- Mr Watkins gave his first update regarding KS5 performance and transition.
- Mr Cormack gave an update regarding KS4. Attendance and outcomes focused on, data looked at.

- Talked about Committee having sight of students who have thrived at Cowley. Mr Hewlett has been tasked with going away and talking to students, success stories to next Committee Meetings.
- Mr Cormack advised there is a delay with IDSR for KS4. We have looked at CISR data – collaborative, analytics data which a lot of schools used. Since that meeting DFE has released some unvalidated data, but this is different to CISR data. We are currently going through all the CISR / DFE data to identify where any discrepancy lies / to get clarity.
- When the IDSR is released, Governors will need to review and discuss this.

Question: When will the next Ofsted inspection be?

Answer: Within 12 months.

Finances, Personnel and Premises Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

- Summary:-
- Mr Arnold advised the board that the Facilities Manager of 6 years service has left, a new one has been appointed, he will come to the next committee meeting. There is a handover between the two. Ongoing difficulties getting things done as we are part way between being a community school and academy.

Question: Has a decision re MIS been made?

Answer: It is difficult. We have asked SIMS for another year, but they probably won't give us that. SIMS has its issues – older system and clunky. It would be difficult to transfer mid academic year when all the exams data etc are on there.

7. Matters Arising from Committee Meetings

There were no matters arising.

8. Recommendations from Committee Meetings

Pupil Behaviour and Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024

Behaviour Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy – will be dealt with under agenda item 11.

Quality of Education Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2024

SEND Policy - will be dealt with under agenda item 11.

Finances, Personnel and Premises Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2024

There were no recommendations.

9. Local Authority Standard Items

None.

10. Financial Management

Governors duly noted the updated projections.

	Total Resources £	Projected Expenditure £	Surplus / Deficit £
2024/2025	13,454,013	12,504,136	949,877
2025/2026	12,932,146	12,458,734	473,412
2026/2027	12,453,611	12,411,420	42,191
2027/2028	11,938,081	12,482,342	-544,261

11. Policy Review

- Complaints Policy
- SEND Policy
- SEND Information Report
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy

Resolved: The above Policies were all approved by Governors

- Behaviour Policy is to follow

Action: Defer consideration of Behaviour Policy to the next Governing Body meeting

12. School Newsletter

Governors noted the contents of the same.

13. International Trips

Mr Cormack informed Governors there was a New York trip at end of next half term. Focus – cultural capital. Great trip with a very busy itinerary.

Mr Cormack informed Governors that another China trip for Year 9 would be going ahead this summer. College have just had confirmation of the continuation of funding from the DFE re the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

Mr Sheeran entered the meeting at 5.30pm

14. Pupil Wellbeing

Mr Cormack reported that the Year 7 cohort has settled very well. Excellent attendance just below 96%. Mr Cormack commended the transition team.

Performing Arts – there was another performance last night.

Challenges ongoing – students with home issues / mental health etc. Pastoral team working very hard.

Mr Gerrard praised the Year 7s in church today for their great behaviour and also praised the year teams in dealing with challenging behaviour.

Mr Cormack reported that “The Cowley Way” introduced this year (behaviours and expectations) is making a difference.

Sad news. One pupil was knocked over by a car. A few students have had parental bereavements. The pastoral care has been great.

Question: Mobile phone policy – how is it all going?

Answer: Still going well. Pupils behaviour at lunch is more social etc. It is good that we no longer have pupils filming fights etc. Phone detectors are being used. We have been asked on a number of occasions to be filmed by film crews, but have said no.

Question: Are students realising the benefit of the policy? Talking to friends more etc?

Answer: We do not have any tangible evidence yet, but we have not had pupils at the last PBW Committee due to the date change, will ask at next one.

Mrs Ahmed commented that her own child has joined more extra-curricular clubs and has developed a real interest in performing arts. Mr Gerrard said it was a record attendance / involvement in the Performing Arts event last night.

Governors agreed that we need to talk to the pupils and explain to them the benefits they are getting from the policy, as they may not realise.

15. Governor Development

Mrs Hill asked Governors if their Safeguarding training was outstanding can they please action this.

Michelle Foster at Wigan Council has done some training online regarding Academisation. Mr Arnold attended this and highly commended her for the quality of the training provided.

16. Full Governing Body Meeting Dates for the Academic Year

Governors noted the same as previously set:-

- Thursday 3 April 2025 at 5pm
- Thursday 17 July 2025 at 5pm

17. Urgent

Mr Cormack informed Governors that the presentation evening date will be Thursday 9 January 2025.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 5.45pm