

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD OF ALDERLEY EDGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL 24th November 2022

GOVERNORS IN ATTENDANCE: Lindsey Walsh (LW) Headteacher

Wendy Davies (WD)
Nick Hughes (NH)
Tom Williams (TWi)
Esther Clark (EC)

Lesley Sym (LS) (joined the meeting at 5:10pm)
Marc Asquith (MA) (joined via Microsoft Teams)
Teddy Weyman (TWe) (joined via Microsoft Teams)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Lomas Clerk to Governors

Lyndsey Platt Deputy Headteacher (joined via

Microsoft Teams)

MINUTES - PART ONE

The meeting commenced at 5:06pm.

ITEM		ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) ITEMS	
	Apologies were received and accepted from the following governors:	
	Sheila Keegan	
	Katie Bjerkan	
	Andrea Hogan	
	Claire Finch	
	Governors noted that LS would be late to the meeting.	
	The following items of AOB were raised for discussion at the end of the meeting: To review the Critical Incident Plan (CIP).	
	Governors noted that CF would be taking a leave of absence of two terms from the Board for health reasons. In her absence items have been distributed to other members of the Board which would be discussed in further detail during the meeting.	
2.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST	
	a) The following declarations were made by governors:	
	NH is a teacher at Wilmslow High School and a governor at Rushton Spencer	
	Primary School.	
	TWi is a director of Neo Projects Limited.	
	EC is a Director of TCET (The Collaborative Educational Trust of Wilmslow). The are years are artisinated as a flicted with the housing are of the greating.	
	There were no anticipated conflicts with the business of the meeting. b) Governors were reminded to ensure completion of their annual confirmations and	
	b) Governors were reminded to ensure completion of their annual confirmations and declarations.	
	LS joined the meeting at 5:10pm.	
	ACTION: Ensure copies of annual declarations and confirmations are signed and	All
	submitted.	govs
	The school confirmed that they maintain the register of interests log following	
	receipt of pecuniary interest forms form governors.	
	c) The school maintains the register of interests and responsibility for updating GIAS.	



3.	ELECTION OF CHAIR Following discussions with CF, it was agreed that a new Chair would be elected for a term to be agreed by the Board.	
	Nominations for Chair were requested. WD was nominated for the role of Chair. No other nominations were received. Following a vote, WD was duly elected as Chair of the Governing Board for a one-year term of office.	
4.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR Nominations were requested for the role of Vice Chair of the Governing Board. NH was nominated for the role of Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. Following a vote, NH was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Governing Board for a one-year term of office.	
5.	MEMBERSHIP a) Governors noted the absence of CF for the remainder of the academic year. The Board considered the current vacancies on the Board: • 3 x Co-opted governors – It was confirmed that the Inspiring Governance advert had been renewed by CF but that no further active recruitment had been undertaken due to the TCET transition. Governor Comment: The Board should be actively recruiting especially now with CF's absence it will be important for the Health of the Board to ensure balance. The Clerk commented that there are additional websites that can be used alongside Inspiring Governance to source candidates such as Governors for Schools. ACTION: Obtain text for the Inspiring Governance advert from CF. Governors discussed the forthcoming expiry dates for the terms of office for MA and AH. • MA agreed to continue in his role as co-opted governor for a further year. Governors approved the decision to appoint MA for a further year's term of office commencing from 24.11.22. MA also commented that his term of office as a local Councillor is coming to an end and that he will have additional time to commit to the board. • It was discussed that AH had previously agreed to continue in her role until the academisation process was complete. Governors resolved to contact AH to discuss her role as governor going forward. ACTION: Contact AH to discuss governor role going forward. There were no DBS or S.128 checks to be undertaken at this time. There were no associate members to be appointed to the Board.	EC
6.	 PART ONE MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING a) Governors confirmed that the part one minutes of the following meetings were true and accurate records of proceedings: EFGB 05.05.22 FGB 14.07.22 EFGB 22.09.22 Governors approved the minutes. ACTION: Upload electronically signed copies of the minutes to GVO. b) The action log from the previous meeting was reviewed and the following items were noted: 	Clerk
	Item 7 – It was confirmed that the letter to Mrs Burt had not been issued. ACTION: TWi to write to Mrs Burt to thank her for her support in relation to the	TWi



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	governors were issued with the cindividual profiles and return to TW ACTION: Governors to update the 02.12.22. ACTION: Update and finalise Governor profiles. ACTION: LW to review finalised and upload to the school website of the school webs	verning Body Profile document with updated Governing Body Profile, issue for comment once completed. had not been completed. the skills audit results and complete the	All govs TWi LW EC Clerk
7.	CHAIR'S ACTION There was no report on Chair's Actions to be	e received at this meeting.	
8.	were confirmed as follows: Strategic Review Committee Wendy Davies (Chair) Tom Williams Nick Hughes Lindsey Walsh Assets Committee Tom Williams Teddy Weyman Wendy Davies Mark Asquith Lindsey Walsh	of committees and link governor roles which Teaching and Learning Committee Nick Hughes (Chair) Lindsey Walsh Lesley Sym Katie Bjerkan Andrea Hogan Esther Clark Sheila Keegan Claire Finch Pay Committee Nick Hughes (Chair) Wendy Davies Tom Williams Mark Asquith file and terms of office within the Governing	TWi
	Link Area	Governor/s	
	Child Protection and Safeguarding	Esther Clark	
	Monitoring implementation of policy for	Lesley Sym	
	Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation		
	Special Educational Needs and Disability	Claire Finch (TBC)	
	(including Gifted & Talented)		
	Health and Safety	Tom Williams	
	Sports Premium	Andrea Hogan	
	Attendance of Pupils	Andrea Hogan	
	SSDIP	Claire Finch (TBC)	



	Strategic Review Committee	13.09.22	
10.	WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES a) Governors confirmed receipt of the following the following statement of the following statement	EES AND REPORTS FROM GOVERNORS owing minutes:	
9.	conduct for 2022-23. ACTION: Issue a reminder to absent govern		Clerk
	 ACTION: Update link roles within the Governing Body Profile. CF's current link roles were considered and it was agreed that the SEND and SSDIP roles would be redistributed following the meeting. ACTION: Confirm link governors for SEND and SSDIP. b) It was confirmed that the approval of the Delegation Planner is a spring term item. ACTION: Add approval of the Delegation Planner to the spring term FGB agenda. b) The ToR for committees had been circulated prior to the meeting but the Board requested that additional time be taken to review the changes and an EFGB be scheduled to formally approve these documents. c) The ToR for the following committees would also be reviewed at the EFGB. • Pay Committee, HTPMP and the ad hoc committees (Complaints, Exclusions, Staff Grievance Appeals). ACTION: Schedule an EFGB for Tuesday 06.12.22 at 5pm via Teams and circulate an agenda for approval of ToR ad the MIFP. 		LW Clerk Clerk
	ACTION: Contact KB to confirm GDPF	an allocated Link Governor who carries out a report at least annually.)	NH TWi
	Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Development	Sheila Keegan Wendy Davies (though each subject has	
	Literacy	Sheila Keegan	
	Mathematics	Nick Hughes	
	GDPR	Katie Bjerkan (TBC)	
	Data & Pupil Premium	Nick Hughes/Esther Clark	
	Staff Liaison	Lesley Sym	
	External Fund Raising/Grants	Wendy Davies	
	Training Governor	Wendy Davies	
	Government/Local Authority Liaison		
	Local Community/Local	Marc Asquith	
	Buildings	Tom Williams	
	responsibility for budget oversight) HR Matters	TBC (currently recruiting)	
	Financial Matters (including delegated	Tom Williams	
	IT/Website Compliance	Nick Hughes	
	Parent/PTA Liaison	Esther Clark	
	Vulnerable Groups	Nick Hughes & Esther Clark	



	Teaching and Learning Committee Assets Committee NH provided a verbal update from the T&L Committee meeting on the discussions related to data, Pupil Premium and attendance. It was also commented that a number of policies were approved at this meeting. The following link visits were discussed: CF had visited the school and met with the SCiES team as part of the Safeguarding audit. Governors acknowledged receipt of the audit which had been circulated via GVO. It was confirmed that in CF's absence, EC would take on the safeguarding ink governor role. SEND – there were no updates to receive regarding SEND visits. It was agreed that NH would organise a SEND visit to take place in January and that a formal appointment of SEND governor would be made in the spring term. ACTION: Organise SEND visit for January 2023. ACTION: Add appointment of SEND link governor to the spring FGB agenda. The link monitoring schedule was tabled for discussion with the HT confirming that the Governing Body Profile document sets out the requirement for one visit per year except for some specific link areas however it was emphasised that this is a minimum requirement and governors are welcome to visit school at any time. The addition of data related to vulnerable pupils was highlighted as an additional inclusion for EC and NH to be guare of in their rates as Data link governors.	NH Clerk
	inclusion for EC and NH to be aware of in their roles as Data link governors.	
11.	FINANCIAL MATTERS Documentation regarding financial matters had been circulated prior to the meeting via GVO. a) The annual accounts and audit certificate had been uploaded to GVO. b) The school confirmed that it is anticipated that Johnathan Christian Hare will continue as the auditor for 2022-23. ACTION: Confirm the auditor for 2022-23. C) The budget position for the current year was confirmed as showing an £11,000 carry forward. d) Years 2 and 3 show deficits of £52,000 and £200,000 respectively. The finance meeting with Cheshire East took place in mid-November which both WD and TWe attended. It was noted that in order to achieve the current financial projections this had required the use of the entire Squirrel Club reserves. Q: Is this a typical picture to see deficits in Year 2 and 3? A: Yes, but the major difference is that this has required the use of the Squirrel Club reserves. There is a small amount of emergency reserves which will be used to cover rising energy costs and the unfunded pay rises. It is anticipated that the majority of the deficit will be eradicated when additional monies are paid. The amount of additional funding is unknow at present. One of the major outcomes of this budget position is that there are no funds to spend on the building. The school were holding back on repairs and upgrades until TCET completed but now this has been further delayed. Governors noted that there were two minor health and safety concerns that were being addressed.	LW
	The school confirmed that benchmarking been undertaken to assess how the	



school compares against other similar schools and why the school is in the position it is in. The results did not reveal any significant issues. The school currently has an underspend on staffing but an overspend on supply so where costs are different they are offset against others. LW **ACTION:** Upload the 3-year plan along with a summary from the school Bursar to explain the findings. Governors noted that members of the Assets Committee will complete the SFVS in e) line with the 31.03.23 deadline with a first draft to be reviewed in January 2023. f) The approval of the MIFP was proposed to be taken to the EFGB on 06.12.22. It was confirmed that TWe has reviewed the document and that the school have incorporated comments from TWe and uploaded it on to GVO for governors to **ACTION:** Governors to review the MIFP ahead of the EFGB on 06.12.22. All govs The school commented that the changes to the MIFP included the amount that schools can tender or quote for. Governors were advised to read the Assets Committee minutes from 08.11.22 for detail on this. The difficulty with the changes is that it is difficult to obtain tenders and quotes for some project work and so the Assets Committee resolved to include a paragraph that states that the school will do everything possible to comply with the changes but effectively this may not be possible in some instances. 12. PART ONE HEADTEACHER'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING The HT's Report was circulated to the Board via GVO prior to the meeting or review. The HT spoke to her report as follows: The school mission statement was discussed with consideration given to reviewing the school aims as this was last undertaken 5 years ago. **ACTION:** Add review of school aims / mission statement to the summer term FGB 2023. Clerk The absence of CF was discussed and it was agreed that CF's name would remain linked to her roles but other governors would pick up monitoring during her absence. Safeguarding Audit The school received positive results from the recent audit with many areas of best practice highlighted. The report has been uploaded to GVO. There were some recommendations made that the school will be implementing including the sign-in book remaining closed when not in use for GDPR reasons. The school has also approached the Local Authority to repaint the lines outside school in order that people who park in the turning circle area can be booked. The school are also looking to obtain cardboard cut outs of children as road safety signs. Staff Wellbeing The HT informed governors that staff are tired due to covering absence and multitasking but are pulling together as a team to get to the end of term. It was also noted that pupils are struggling with illnesses post covid. Attendance Attendance has been affected recently by pupil illness. The ACOS visits school once per term to review procedures and discuss any areas of concern. It was commented that it is important that governors have an understanding of the attendance issues through regular monitorina. **ACTION:** Organise an attendance visit by AH in the spring term. NH

The attendance policy has been reviewed and recommended for approval at the meeting



under Item 20.

The current attendance rate stands at 94.6% with a target of 96%.

The school confirmed that absence rates through illness have reduced in staff and that the staff are very committed to their roles and work together as a team with time off only taken when staff are very poorly. LS confirmed that the staff body would agree with the HT's comments.

The Board invited LS to feedback on any governor items from a staff perspective as required. LS commented that she liaises with staff on the outcomes and discussions that take place at meetings and staff know that if they have any concerns she will raise them on behalf of staff at meetings.

Q: Is there a risk of industrial action?

A: The ballot closes in January and it is felt that is strike action is likely.

Q: Does the Board and school need to undertake any contingency planning?

A: There is nothing that can be done at present and the school is not allowed to ask staff what they plan to do with regard to strike action.

Q: Do the school know or are SLT allowed to ask what the breakdown of union membership is between staff?

A: The school is largely aware of what unions staff are members of. All three unions are being balloted about pay and working conditions.

The main point of strike action is for it to be deliberately disruptive. The school is unable to ask other staff to cover any classes where staff are absent because of industrial action.

Q: Is it possible to notify parents?

A: Yes, any strike action dates will be pre-published.

Q: Can the school use supply teachers?

A: This could be done potentially dependent upon availability, but it is important to ensure that staff feel supported and that the school does not undermine any actions taken by staff.

13. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

- a) Governors acknowledged receipt of the minutes from the Teaching and Learning Committee that detailed the results data. All data is also included within the SEF.
- b) Governors were referred to the Teaching and Learning Committee minutes for detail on target setting.
- c) It was noted that the Reception Baseline Assessments had been completed and further detail was set out within the Teaching and Learning Committee minutes.

14. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- a) Governors confirmed that the SEF had been reviewed on GVO. The school commented that the SEF was written in July/August 2022 and has formed the basis of the new SDP for 2022-23.
- b) Governors **approved** the SDP for 2022-23.

15. PUPIL PREMIUM, SPORTS PREMIUM AND CATCH-UP FUNDING

It was confirmed that the use of the Pupil Premium Grant, Sports Premium and Catch-Up Funding and the impact on pupils who are eligible for the funding had been evaluated in detail at the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting with a detailed presentation from LS.



		rts had been issued to AH for comments but ents were needed ahead of the school being um reports.	NH
16.	Merrett (GM) from ECM Consultants remain	as discussed at the summer term FGB. Gena s in place for the 2022-23 academic year. A d for 2023-24 as GM's two-year contract will	
	LP has met with a potential SIP candidate explore this further.	called Emma Blakemore and the school will	
	Q: Do SIP's need to be accredited in any v A: No, they just need to have the right ski headships is important.	vay? illset and experience. Recent experience of	
	ACTION: Add appointment of a new SIP to the	ne spring term FGB agenda.	Clerk
17.	GOVERNANCE STATEMENT Governors noted that the annual Governance Statement required updating in order to be published on the school website. The clerk confirmed that the Governance Statement should provide summary of actions undertaken by the Board over the last year and a statement of intent for the current year. ACTION: Forward the word document of the previous Governance Statement to EC. ACTION: Update and issue the Governance Statement for 2021-22.		LW EC
18.	DIRECTOR'S REPORT There were no further updates from the Director's Report, all items had been discussed at committees.		
19.	 GOVERNOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT a) Training has continued since September and the Training Link governor sends regular updates on available training to governors. b) A range of training has been completed since the last meeting which has been logged onto GVO. Governors were reminded to ensure they log any training attended and to forward any certificates to the clerk. All governors have completed Safeguarding Level 1 training. c) The discussion of the results of the skills audit was deferred to the spring term FGB meeting as detailed under Item 6. d) Attendance of governors was not reviewed at this meeting. e) It was confirmed that there were no changes required to the Strategic Vision Document. 		
20.	SCHOOL POLICIES The following policies were circulated prior to For ratification:	the meeting via GVO for review: For approval:	
	68 Prevention and Management of Bullying	<u> </u>	
	88 Early Career Teacher (ECT) Induction	16 Attendance	
	21 Behaviour Management	63 Whistleblowing	
	36 Child Protection	60 Complaints	
	107 Child on Child Abuse 9 Health and Safety	76 Exclusions 18 Pay Policy for Teaching Staff	



	It was confirmed that the HT has agreed to respond to comments on GVO to conclude the review process. Governors approved the above policies.	
04	DI ANNED DECIDENTIAL MOITO	
21.	PLANNED RESIDENTIAL VISITS The school confirmed that risk assessments for forthcoming trips will be undertaken in the new year. As Delamere is a centre that the school have not visited before, staff will be visiting the Centre next week. The Delamere Centre is a well-established centre used by many schools in Cheshire East.	
	Governors approved the following residential visits subject to the required risk assessments being undertaken: • Year 4 – Whitehall – 22 nd – 24 th March 2023	
	 Year 2 – Delamere – 17th – 18th May 2023 	
	 Year 6 – Pensarn – 22nd – 26th May 2023 	
22.	TERM DATES 2023-24 The Board confirmed the term dates for 2023-24 and these had now been published on the school website.	
23.	TO NOTE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTION OF MEETING PRECIS	
	It was requested that the clerk complete the meeting precis for this meeting as WD was unavailable until January 2023. ACTION: Complete the meeting precis.	Clerk
24.	MEETINGS The date of the next FGB meeting was confirmed as Thursday 29 th March 2023 at 5:00pm at the school.	
	Details of the EFGB were confirmed as Tuesday 6 th December 2022 at 5:00pm via Microsoft Teams. As WD was unavailable for this meeting, it was agreed that NH would take on the role of Acting Chair for the EFGB.	
25.	OTHER BUSINESS The Critical Incident Plan (CIP) was tabled for discussion. It was confirmed that governors had reviewed the CIP and there were no changes to report. The school confirmed that the most significant challenge is the turnover of staff at the Local Authority who are responsible for critical items.	
	Governors noted that while the CIP is available on GVO, it is not uploaded to the school website as it contains personal staff details. ACTION: Update the CIP to remove CF's contact details and add in WD's as Chair of Governors.	LW
	The HT raised the matter of school email addresses being issued to governors to improve security.	
	ACTION: Issue school email addresses to governors.	LW
26.	IMPACT STATEMENT The Board has helped to move the school forward in the following ways during this meeting:	
	Governors considered the structure of the Board and elected a new Chair and Vice chair for 2022-23. The Board resolved to increase recruitment expertunities for governors to ensure the	
	The Board resolved to increase recruitment opportunities for governors to ensure the	



stability and growth of the Board.

- A number of policies were ratified and approved.
- Governors considered the impacts of potential industrial action and how the school could best manage such events.
- The financial position of the school was discussed with the governors understanding the implications of the projected deficits.
- Governor training continues with the Board developing their range of skills.

The meeting moved to Part Two.	Davies. Ch	
	29.03.23	Date