



**MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2018 AT 5.30 PM – 7.30 PM
CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL (LRC)**

MINUTES

Attendees / Non-attendees: Mr S. Bennett (SB), Mr N. Brown (NB), Mrs H. Dunne (HD), Mrs R. Dykes (RD), **Mrs S. Farmer (SF)**, Mr A. Fryer (AF), Mr C. Jones (CJ), **Miss C. Jones (CIJ)**, **Mr D. Jones (DJ)**, Mr P. Lindoewood (PL), **Cllr J. Morris (JM)**, **Mrs J. Parker (JP)**, **Mr M. Rhydderch-Roberts (MRR)**, Mr S. Roberts (SR), Cllr K. Silk (KS), Mrs N. Thomas (NT), Mrs H. Waggett (HW), **Dr G. Williams (GW)**.

Highlighted Name – denotes Governor not attending

1.0	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from SF, JM, DJ, JM, JP, MRR and DG.
2.0	Student Voice No one was available to present the Student Voice report.
3.0	Welsh Bacc – A Presentation by Carron Gould CG started her presentation by saying that at today's Powys Careers Festival in Builth Wells, a team of Year 10 students presented the case for what needs to be done to encourage more young people to move into the County, as part of a competition being run by Powys County Council. The team won and will be going to present their arguments to senior management as the next phase. CG went on to present details of the Welsh Bacc wheel, which is the measure for schools, this being 3 GCSEs and 2 A levels. The whole measure for schools is the whole wheel. The equivalent GCSEs and A Levels are the most important as they carry the UCAS points, which are the same as for any GCSE or A Level. In KS4, the Skills Challenge Certificate is done in Welsh Bacc lessons. It is also measured in the Cat 9 score. Students carry out three challenges and one project. We'll try to complete the challenges in Year 10 and spend the whole of Year 11 on the project. The project is worth 50% of the Skills Challenge Certificate, which is all about skills development. Within these challenges, students develop 7 employability skills, such as digital literacy or critical thinking, which are the skills employers have said students lack. The Community Challenge Students in KS4 have to volunteer for 10 hours and 30 hours in KS5. This might involve doing gardening for elderly people, helping out with the scouts, guides or sports clubs. They're responsible for how they spend this time, so it helps to develop independence and a sense of responsibility.

The Global Challenge

Students explore issues around the world. They develop a standpoint, through research and evaluation of that research, establishing whether there is a bias, how up-to-date or relevant it is. In KS5 we also encourage students to reference their research.

The Enterprise and Employment Challenge

Students in KS4 are required to carry out a project similar to a university dissertation, setting their own research question and topic. At KS5, students are required to set up their own business. They work in teams so need to understand what it takes to develop a team. They learn how to do a skills audit, how to recognize strengths and weaknesses and how to put plans in place to improve skills. During the process, students learn how to sell themselves for a job or university interview.

What do students actually learn?

They learn how to set up a business or how to write a business proposal. Business professionals come in to help them with this. Students also have the opportunity to enter a competition with their business proposal run by the University of South Wales. Welsh Bacc helps to develop digital literacy, as students have to use many different types of software over and above Microsoft Office. They learn to be both independent and to work as a team. They learn how to be employable. In KS4 students write an application letter. At KS5, students prepare a detailed document called a decimation plan, which details the pathways they'll need to take to get where they want to go. They also prepare a cost analysis to work out a scenario for independent living, such as running a car or going away to university.

Welsh Bacc will only succeed if everyone is on board with it. Staff have to work together to make it work. We're tracking students and have identified those who may not achieve. Our results are looking promising. Staff have also been asked to start using the Welsh Bacc language i.e. digital literacy and not ICT. If students are conducting an analytical exercise in another subject, we're exploring whether this can be linked into the Welsh Bacc.

Why do we do Welsh Bacc?

- It's worth UCAS points
- There are no exams
- It's enjoyable
- There is funding available
- Everyone is doing it so all students need to have it on their CVs
- It develops opportunities for networking

What can Governors do to help?

- They can support events
- They can judge enterprise pitches
- They can offer opportunities for volunteering
- They can provide contacts
- They can promote positivity
- They can use their knowledge and professional background to do a talk

	<p>Other Opportunities</p> <p>We have a great programme in Year 9 called the Right To Give Programme. Students contact charities to find out what they do. They then pitch to the charities for a reward of £1k, which is then given to the charity.</p> <p>SR thanked CG for her presentation and opened the discussion up for questions.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Minutes of the Last Governors Meeting / Matters Arising</p> <p>NB said our space calculation has been confirmed as 146. HD pointed out that the meeting left the visitors with some questions but these are not in the minutes.</p> <p>NT reported that a meeting was held with DT to look at the new build, mobile classrooms, planning etc. At that meeting, DT has space calculation figures of 121 but has now accepted that we are 146. DT said there's more work to be done on the space calculation for all Powys schools. DT will be returning to the school to work on our allocation and any appeals. He will also be conducting a gap analysis to determine the facilities required for our space calculation. He agreed that we need to move forward and not let things stagnate. We have all this in writing now.</p> <p>CJ asked what the difference is between UK Government and the Welsh Government on space calculation. NB replied that the space calculation for schools is part of the UK Government Education Act. It hasn't been devolved to the Welsh Assembly.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Governor Housekeeping</p> <p>Transfer of Suzanne Farmer to a Community Governor Post: AF asked for a vote on whether Governors are happy for this to happen. The vote was unanimously in favour.</p> <p>Nomination of Governor Responsibilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children (incl. Health & Safety) – HD volunteered to take on the role. • Equal Opportunity: HW volunteered to take this on. • Science – HD volunteered to take this on. <p>Ratification of the following policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Learning Needs Policy 2018 • Admissions Policy 2018 • Agreed Policy for Adoption of Policies & Procedures 2018 • Exam Entries Contingency Plan 2018 • Examinations Policy 2018 • Instructions for Conducting Non-Examination Assessments 2018 • Learning & Teaching Policy 2018 • VSS Policy 2018 <p>All the policies were duly ratified.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Minutes of Committee Meetings / Matters Arising</p> <p>Quality Assurance – 4th December 2017: AF took the meeting through the minutes. Core Visit Two has taken place and the report has been issued.</p>

	<p>ACTION: The Clerk to circulate it to Governors.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Staffing & Pay – 13th December 2017: SR took the meeting through the minutes. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Finance & Community– 10th January 2018: PL took the meeting through the minutes which were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Curriculum & Policy – 7th February 2018: HW took the meeting through the minutes which were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Community Library / Sports Centre Update</p> <p>NB reported that the budgets are on SharePoint and they are the same ones that have been sent to County. The Sports Centre is projecting a £6-7k loss due to the delays to the installation of the floodlights.</p> <p>We’re currently looking at reducing the amount of plastic products sold via the vending machines.</p> <p>There are a couple of grants in the region of £250k available for building- related projects and we’re planning on applying to get funding to refurbish changing rooms.</p> <p>We’re still waiting on the S106 funding of £42k from the Green Lane developer for our sports facilities.</p> <p>The Library is progressing well. Staff are processing the library forms that have come in from students who’ll then be issued with membership cards.</p> <p>The Community Garden is going well and we’re monitoring the litter situation.</p> <p>SR’s wife has taken an active role in the development of the library and is doing a fantastic job.</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Community Focused School</p> <p>New Build / Floodlighting Plans: NB said the floodlighting has now gone back out to consultation with a 21-day turnaround for responses. This is due to the fact that we had an objection to noise pollution. HOWLPS have mocked up sound plans, which involve putting up sound barriers. AF explained that the sound consultant is of the opinion that if the pitches are being used in the summer by footballers, then potentially they might technically be over the sound limits for residential gardens backing on to the sports pitches. It is hoped that this objection will be withdrawn as the objector may be more concerned at the installation of a sound barrier obstructing their view rather than the level of noise.</p> <p>AF reported that the Town Council, local politicians and the BBNPA are now running a campaign at Welsh Assembly level against Powys County Council due to the lack of equity of treatment between different areas of the County. This may result in a legal challenge but is being done independently of the school.</p>
<p>9.0</p>	<p>Budget Update and Actions for 2018-2019 Budget Planning</p>

	<p>NB reported that PCC have put another tranche of VSS in the budget for those staff who've indicated they'll take it.</p> <p>AF said that some savings have been made. There have been several discussions with PCC, both formal and informal. The cumulative budget deficit now stands at £569 after three years. For the benefit of meeting the target for the regulation for financing schools, Governors agreed to delegate the decision to approve the budget by 1st May to the Finance & Community Committee, after which it will be returned to full Governors for final adoption. We know the Fair Funding Formula will change by September 2019. The ALN funding only includes those students whose funding has been agreed.</p> <p>During a recent meeting at the Star Chamber, PCC took on board that CHS is the lowest funded in our family of schools and in Wales. We went through the figures in great detail, an exercise which is being carried out with every secondary school in the County. This will provide them with a better understanding of the overall position. County have recruited some personnel from outside Powys to help them to turn the situation around, but it won't be easy. Two schools have already refused to do anything to reduce their deficit position and we made the point at the meeting that we might do the same. There was a tacit understanding that a different Fair Funding Formula is needed, but this cannot be done without some kind of structural change across Powys. One of this issues may be that with all these new schools opening up in the County, it may strengthen the case to close older ones.</p> <p>RD asked how Governors should respond when approached about the plans for both Gwernyfed and Brecon High School. AF replied that despite the press coverage, there are still processes to go through.</p> <p>HW asked what the line of miscellaneous expenses cover. NB replied that there are some items not covered by ledger codes, so we put them in there. These are things like hospitality.</p> <p>AF said that one issue PCC struggles with is that our external income is high as compared with other schools, but this isn't taken into consideration when working out the balancing position. They're discounting the income line and just looking at the costs.</p> <p>PL said whether if this deficit isn't sustainable, how we're going to improve our financial situation and whether we'll have to pay off our deficit. AF said this is currently being discussed. The scheme for financing schools dictates that schools must have a three-year plan that pays off any deficit. It should be noted that all the schools around us have been provided with free sports facilities, but not us. The cumulative deficit has come about because we have students in our school that we haven't been funded for.</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p>ALN Funding</p> <p>NT reported that a meeting was held with MG last week. He has now agreed to reinstate most of the ALN funding for all specific statemented students. This will be backdated and it should be reimbursed up until the end of this academic year.</p>
<p>11.0</p>	<p>Staffing Update</p> <p>NB reported that we're currently awaiting the outcome of the latest VSS round. We have appointed a new relief Duty Manager in the Sports Centre and we're interviewing for a couple of other positions.</p>

	<p>We've appointed an inhouse replacement for our ALN Manager, who's due to retire on 23rd March. AF said that it would be nice if Governors were alerted to the fact that long-serving members of staff are retiring. NT said that JM had specifically requested that it be kept quiet, in order to avoid unsettling the ALN students as they approach their exams.</p> <p>The Director of Learning for English & Media Studies, HOF, will be returning from maternity leave on 23rd March.</p>
12.0	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>NT advised that this would be emailed out to Governors instead.</p>
13.0	<p>SIP Progress</p> <p>No report was given.</p>
14.0	<p>QA Calendar</p> <p>NT reported that the MFL Faculty review is currently under way.</p>
15.0	<p>Curriculum / Timetable Update</p> <p>NB said we're working on the Year 8 options blocks now and the plan is to go online with these via SIMS, which should make it easier for parents.</p> <p>Year 11 have been issued with the options blocks for sixth form. BTEC Sport has been included in these options, since funding for it has not yet been secured.</p> <p>We've decided to return to a September start for the Year 9 GCSE curriculum.</p> <p>Status of BTEC Sport Funding: AF reported that unless funding can be secured for this, then it will be dropped.</p> <p>RD asked where students will be taught in September, given the pressure on our existing facilities. AF reported that PCC do not wish to provide us with mobile classrooms as these tend to become permanent solutions and also tend to provide a reason to further delay building plans. There's also a cost associated with running them. On 1st March, PCC sent out legally binding letters regarding our September intake. Therefore our September admissions are a legal issue for PCC and not for the school.</p>
16.0	<p>Inclusion / Health & Safety</p> <p>NB said there is nothing to report.</p>
17.0	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public – Confidential Items: The Education School Government (Wales) Regulations 1999, Section 55</p> <p>Staffing & Pay minutes.</p>

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.