



**MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY  
WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 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), **Cllr R. Harris (RH)**, **Mr R. Jeremiah (RJ)**, Mr C. Jones (CJ), **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**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies For Absence</b>  Apologies were received from RD, RJ, DJ, RH and PL.  Also absent was CJ.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Student Voice</b>  AG presented Student Voice highlighting the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A sixth form social was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, which went well. There'll be no Christmas social and the plan is to run a social around Valentine's Day instead.</li><li>• Hear2Help is to relaunch in January. There are currently 10 student volunteers. JP explained Hear2Help is a national programme set up to help other students who may need to talk about things that are causing them concern.</li><li>• The sex education programme, Apause, will also be up and running in January. 18 students have volunteered and training will be given by CG.</li><li>• Lanyards will be issued by NB in the spring term.</li><li>• A Christmas Fair will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December in place of the sixth form social. Stalls will be run by the Sixth Form for younger students to enjoy and all monies raised will be donated to charity.</li><li>• Community litter picking teams will operate three times a day manned by volunteers. The Eco Committee will be requesting a grant of £250 from Eco Schools Wales for litter picking equipment. They'll also be looking to build bat boxes, exploring litter reduction / school site cleanliness schemes for animals.</li><li>• Fair Trade stalls will be run at times throughout the year selling Fair Trade products.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be taking part in teacher interviews and events such as ‘Have Your Say’ and ‘Our Green Future’.</li> <li>• Student Senedd has requested more benches around the school grounds. They’ve also requested to be issued with Student Senedd badges. The Senedd will take part in the SER and SIP process, as well as curriculum planning.</li> <li>• A survey of students has been conducted to establish how many bins they would like and where they want them to be placed around the school.</li> <li>• Discussions are being held with JM to revamp the Homework Club, which could be run by Hear2Help students.</li> <li>• A request has been put in to repair the climbing wall in the Sports Hall to make it safe.</li> <li>• Non-uniform days will be held throughout the year to raise money for charities, such as Save The Children, Water Aid, Brecon Mountain Rescue.</li> </ul> <p>MRR mentioned that recently he’d noticed a lot of plastic bottle litter on the playing fields which were from the vending machine in the Sports Centre and requested that this be fed back to the Eco Committee. The subject of litter was discussed.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Minutes of Last Governors Meeting / Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last Governors meeting were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Community Governor Vacancies:</b> AF brought the meeting up-to-date with the situation regarding the loss of two of our Community Governors, pointing out that one of the items to come out of the schools consultation process currently being conducted is that Community Governors going forward will need to be skills-based. Governors were asked to try to identify potential candidates to fill these vacancies and to pass any names on to the Clerk. JP agreed to contact DE, who’d applied to become a Community Governor during the last round of elections.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to add CJ to the Governing Body as a co-opted member.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>Clerk</p>
4.0	<p><b>Minutes of Sub Committee Meetings / Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Finance &amp; Community – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017:</b> AF advised the meeting that we’re still short of a Chair of this committee and, whoever takes it on, should have relevant skills. A discussion was held.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Quality Assurance – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017:</b> AF took the meeting through the minutes, which were accepted. There were no matters arising.</p> <p><b>Curriculum &amp; Policy – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017:</b> SF took the meeting through the minutes, which were accepted. There were no matters arising. A vote of thanks was given to HJ for all his work with the Governing Body.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>Community Library Update</b></p>	

	<p>JP advised that funding has now been sourced to carry out project work for the library. A two-year action plan is to be put in place and we're working with a project team on several aspects.</p> <p>New signage has already been put up, we've put in two new computers and 1 iPad and some of the school furniture has been transferred to the library.</p> <p>The community garden is up and running and OS and some ADT staff are looking at ways of developing some aspects of the garden.</p> <p>We're working with the community to improve the internal décor / displays and to be a little more creative with benches.</p> <p>We plan to train some of our admin staff to act as temporary librarians as holiday cover for regular staff.</p> <p>We're also in discussion with County regarding the Library becoming part of the new school buildings.</p>	
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Community Focussed School</b></p> <p>JP advised the meeting that she recently met with the acting Chief Executive of Powys County Council, DP, to provide him with a detailed account of the issues CHS is facing, in terms of the new build / floodlights planning applications and ALN funding.</p> <p>At a meeting between JP, AF and the new Director of Education, IB, it was established that the new build plans had been shelved, despite the promise of £1m funding. AF said that at this meeting three things became clear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was admitted that new build plans were shelved as directed by the Acting Head of Schools, GJ.</li> <li>• This budget of 1m isn't in the Schools Education Budget because it was in the main County Council Budget.</li> </ul> <p>JP expressed her considerable disappointment at the outcome of these meetings with County. A lengthy discussion was held. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter will be sent to the Chief Executive from the Governing Body requesting clarification as to when the new build project will go ahead.</li> <li>• SF to approach an independent planning consultant, with a view to progressing our planning applications.</li> <li>• SF to hold initial discussions with a journalistic contact, with a view to publicizing our situation.</li> <li>• A letter to be sent out to parents explaining the status quo prior to any press exposure.</li> <li>• DP and IB to be invited to attend the next Governing Body meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</li> <li>• MRR to open discussions with the local MP.</li> </ul>	<p>JP</p> <p>SF</p> <p>SF</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p> <p>MRR</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resident objecting to the planning application for the floodlights, on the basis of noise, to be offered a sound mitigation barrier, which could be up to several metres in height.</li> </ul>	<b>NB</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Budget Update and Actions for 2017 / 2018 Budget Planning</b></p> <p><b>School Budget:</b> JP said the budget being presented is a ‘worst case’ scenario and pointed out the steady reduction in ALN funding over time.</p> <p>This budget includes a 1% uplift for staff.</p> <p>AF said a potential solution to the children’s services problem in Powys may be to push some of the services into schools, which would remove the cost associated with dealing with social services organizations which are vastly over-stretched.</p> <p>MRR said it’s time to take action as the budget deficit continues to rise. JP said the budget is being reviewed in detail, as well as in the light of how we should be funded.</p> <p>The debt recovery plan will be finalized when we have accurate figures. The current Fair Funding Formula will continue to cause problems for us as a large English Medium Secondary School.</p> <p>It is planned to send out sponsorship letters in the New Year to local companies and to request parents to contribute £20 to PTFA funding. HD asked for a list of companies to be approached.</p> <p><b>Sports Centre Budget:</b> JP said the Sports Centre budget has been affected by the delays to the floodlighting planning application but we’re still in a better position than at the outset. We’re still on course to move to surplus in 2021 / 2022. JM pointed out that the developer building The Green housing development in Llangenny Lane was required to set aside a pot of money for the improvement of sporting and social facilities in the community and there is therefore a sum of £41,402k available for Crickhowell High School. JM advised that JP should contact the Chief Executive of the National Parks to secure the funds.</p> <p><b>Library Budget:</b> JP reported that the Library budget continues to be run as a breakeven budget.</p>	<b>JP</b>         <b>JP</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>ALN Funding</b></p> <p>JP apprised the meeting of the history relating to two students with full statements for whom funding is owed to the tune of £30k and the accusations of funding inaccuracies levelled at the school by the County ALN Manager, MG. The upshot is that far from receiving the full amount, one student has been granted £7k and the amounts of £4k and £19k have been removed from our ALN funding. We’re seeking a further meeting with the Head of ALN at County, ImB:</p> <p>a) to resolve these funding issues b) to obtain a written apology for the claims made against the school and so restore our integrity.</p> <p>AF said in policy terms there are 3 problems:</p>	<b>JP / AF</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A system is in place which is a half-way house.</li> <li>• We have a number of students with educational statements defining one set of requirements, but medical care requiring another set.</li> <li>• The system has core expenditure, which is then topped up. If more is requested then further scrutiny is carried out, but if a school refuses to take students then the school can keep the core.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion was held.</p>	
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>Staffing Update</b></p> <p>CaG joins us in January as the Welsh Bacc Co-ordinator.</p> <p>We have two staff out on maternity leave who're due back in the spring term.</p> <p>We're running a range of twilight sessions after school in place of twilight training days.</p> <p>A lot of work is currently being done on pedagogy.</p>	
<b>10.0</b>	<p><b>Headteacher's Report</b></p> <p>GW presented data comparing CHS with other schools with a similar Free School Meals level. The data shows that for A levels, 3 A*/A grades, CHS did very well with over 20%. 3 A*/C grades dipped across the country. For GCSE L2+ results, we're at the top of the family. For 5 A*/A grades, we're below the family average so this will need some additional focus.</p> <p>JP said AP has been a huge success in the Wellbeing team and CJ is doing an outstanding job. Following on from the Welsh Government's mental health launch, we've been asked to go to Cardiff to assist with the running of this initiative.</p> <p>Faculty Reviews are giving us the opportunity to discuss with students their attitudes towards learning.</p> <p>Our involvement with the Our Futures People initiative will indicate how we can save on our energy consumption.</p> <p>We're revising our careers and PSE protocols. CPD arrangements are working well and have been offered to the cluster primaries.</p> <p>JP said NT and GW have been accepted for the Assessment Centre for NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) training. AH has taken over Go4Schools and we're working with the Challenge Advisor, AO, and the Directors of Learning on SER.</p> <p>We're a Professional Learning and Ladder Support school for ERW, a lead school for ITE and we're working with the cluster primaries to develop the curriculum.</p>	
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>SIP Progress</b></p>	

	<p>JP advised the meeting that the SER is being rigorously scrutinized and this will be sent out for further comment. This has been done under the new framework for ERW and Estyn and it now links with every aspect of the SIP.</p> <p>Individual TLR and Faculty plans are ongoing.</p>	
<b>12.0</b>	<p><b>QA Calendar</b></p> <p><b>Core Visit One Report:</b> This generated a good report. Science will be improved via an action plan and Governors will be updated subsequently.</p> <p>We've completed the English and Science reviews in line with the QA calendar.</p>	
<b>13.0</b>	<p><b>Curriculum / Timetable Update</b></p> <p>JP reported that the new curriculum is going very well. The Big Questions in Years 7 and 8 have been well received.</p> <p>Early options for Year 9 are going well.</p>	
<b>14.0</b>	<p><b>Inclusion and Health &amp; Safety</b></p> <p>JP said that one pupil is on a three-day exclusion to give them the opportunity to improve or face a pupil referral unit.</p> <p>We have additional safety requirements for some students on immune suppressant medication.</p> <p>We're reviewing our medical protocols to cater for a student with specific medical needs.</p>	
<b>15.0</b>	<p><b>Exclusion of Press and Public – Confidential Items (The Education School Government (Wales) Regulations 1999, Section 55) (standing item)</b></p> <p>There is nothing to exclude.</p>	

The meeting ended at 7.37 pm.