

Cantell School
Minutes of the Whole Governing Body Meeting
held on Wednesday 21st February 2024

Present:

Peter Hilditch (Chair)
Harry Kutty (Head)
Emma Bradshaw
John Draper
John Groves

In Attendance:

Michelle Burt (Clerk to Governors)

Apologies:

Glynis Alexander
Julian Bryant
Matt Bunday
Ben Hiatt
Nicola Hunt

Due to traffic issues in the local area meaning that some Governors were unable to get to the meeting, it was agreed to reconvene the meeting on Monday 26th February at 4.00 p.m. to complete the majority of the agenda.

27/24 Declaration Pecuniary or Business Interests Action

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Business Interests.

28/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th December 2023

Governors APPROVED the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th December 2023 as a true record of the meeting, which were SIGNED accordingly by the Chair.

29/24 Matters Arising

All Matters Arising from the last meeting are either complete, on the agenda or ongoing.

30/24 New Parent Governor/Reappointment of Governor

- Governors NOTED that Ben Hiatt had been elected by parents as a Parent Governor for a four-year term of office from the 23rd January 2024.
- Governors AGREED to REAPPOINT Nicola Hunt as a Co-opted Governor for a further four-year term of office from the 6th March 2024.

31/24 Finance & Staffing Committee

Summary of Finance & Staffing Committee meetings held on the 7th February 2024

Finance Committee

The Chair of the Finance Committee informed Governors that the Committee had reviewed additional expenditure that has gone into the budget for areas such as legal advice. There were a number of items and the Committee asked whether they were reasonable items and the School Business Manager confirmed that they were indeed normal expenditure.

The Chair of the Finance Committee explained that they had also looked at the Budget vs Actuals budget, which is on track and they looked at budgeted income to date – there is always a little bit of variance, but it is all on track.

In terms of expenditure, the School Business Manager outlined some of the bigger scale items, but costs are on track and all the expenses that were expected at this time are on track. The Head added that they also spoke about a predicted deficit, which will probably be a bit less than predicted.

Action

The Head explained that the Committee also spoke about the NOR being at maximum capacity, but that they had agreed to raise the PAN to support the LA and that moving forward the School Business Manager will have to plan for this and she will also be looking at the cost of savings without compromise. The School Business Manager will also be setting her own budget and she is confident that there will only be a small deficit or a small surplus, which is good news

A Governor queried whether the budget needed to be approved by the WGB. The Chair responded that he believes that it is usually brought to WGB as a recommendation from the Committee. The Clerk agreed to look into the procedure.

Clerk

The Chair said that there is a lot of stuff that the School Business Manager has been looking at, such as the budget, which has Keith Pinney's imprint on and the Committee had a discussion about Sarah Bradshaw putting her own stamp on things and not just doing it the way it was done previously.

The Head outlined issues that have been happening with the boilers in school and NOTED that the Head has asked for new boilers to be installed following these issues and the fact that the current boilers haven't been maintained in the way they should have been.

Staffing Committee

In the absence of the Chair of the Staffing Committee, the Chair of the Finance Committee provided a summary of the meeting.

Exit Interviews are carried out when staff leave and generally speaking there is usually about a 50% return as people have already left. Of those that do take place, they are mainly reasonably positive. What is noticeable with this set of returns, is that they were many more completed and the feedback is much more positive, in-depth and more constructive, which was nice to see.

A Governor asked whether there has been a change in the structure of the Exit Interviews. The Chair of the Finance Committee responded that he doesn't think so, it was just the cohort of the people leaving. It will be interesting to see the next lot.

The Head said that they also looked at starters and leavers, which are very low and the fact that a few were leaving the profession shows what a challenging time it is to be in education. The Head added that they want to an SLT who do creative things to keep people at Cantell and as a result, have carried out a staff survey, the results of which will be presented at the next WGB meeting in March. The results have already been presented to staff and students.

**Agenda
Item
27.2.24**

The Head commented that although the survey results are positive, it is a difficult time to be in education.

A Governor commented that what is interesting about exit interviews is when you pick up on something that hasn't been mentioned before.

32/24 **Any Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

Reconvened Whole Governor Meeting – Monday 26th February 2024
 Next meeting – Wednesday 27th March 2024

That concluded the business of the Meeting. The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

Page No	Minute Number	Item	By Whom	By When
1.	31/24	Confirm whether budget should be approved by WGB	Clerk	As soon as possible
2.	31/24	Results of Staff Survey presentation.	Agenda/ Clerk	WGB 27.3.24

Ongoing Matters Arising

2	04/24	Head to look for a replacement for Finance/Staffing Committee	Head	Asap
6.	08/24	Governors to arrange visits with the Link Faculties	All	When available