



Ysgol Uwchradd LLANIDLOES High School

GOFAL

Giving Opportunities For All to Learn



MINUTES

Llanidloes Schools' Federation Governing Body Meeting; Wednesday 28th April 2021, 6.30 pm via Teams on Hwb

PRESENT

Margot Jones, Daniel Owen, Elen Chennetier, Kelly Hawkins, Lauren Morris, Meirion Jones, Clare Bound, Dan Craig, Lorna Morris, Christoph Schultz, Jamie Jones, Gareth Morgan, Adrian Foulkes, Linda Broughall, Diane Jones-Poston, Ruth Davies

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Ashton (primary school deputy headteacher), Catrin Taylor (secondary school deputy headteacher), Jane Jerman (secondary school assistant headteacher), Simon Creasey (secondary school CAL maths), Sue Bound (federation business manager), Helen Rees (clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Karen Swann.

The meeting was quorate, therefore business proceeded.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST/BUSINESS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made relating to items on this agenda.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Gareth Morgan had not been contacted by the LA regarding the vacancy for an LA governor. According to LA guidance, elected members should be asked to nominate a governor for a vacancy in this category. The elected member will contact LA Governor Services.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting of the governing body held on 24th March 2021 were confirmed and will be filed in the schools' file.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Jane Jerman and Simon Creasey gave a presentation to governors explaining the school's procedure for ensuring the robustness of Centre-Determined Grades (CDG) for pupils in Years 11 and 13. There were around 2,000

individual examination entries each year. A thorough and detailed analysis of pupil grade data had been undertaken to ensure consistency and reliability for both pupils and the centre.

In summer 2020, using the mean values for A+ and C+ grades for the previous four years, a standard deviation curve was plotted to show the degree of variance for each examination subject. It was expected that 68% of data should be within one standard deviation unit, 95% within two standard deviation units and 99.7% within three standard deviation units. Data for the predicted grades was compared to these expectations and classified as red, amber, yellow or green for each subject. There were no concerns for grades in the green category, but those in the red, amber and yellow categories were considered further by the Curriculum Area Lead or Senior Leadership team. The grades were amended if they were found to be either too harsh or too lenient, and all supporting evidence was recorded if there were found to be genuine anomalies and the predicted grade was justified. The grades issued by WJEC were concerning in four subjects: business (lower by 1.4 grades/pupil), D&T (lower by 3 grades/pupil), maths (lower by 2 grades/pupil) and physics (lower by 2.8 grades/pupil). The school model formed the basis of a submission made to the WG education committee just five days after the grades had been issued, requesting reinstatement of the Centre Assessed Grades (CAG).

In summer 2021, in addition to the above analysis, a software tool (ALPS) had been used by all secondary schools in Powys to calculate the 'value added' for each pupil from the start of a course through to the end. A comparison was made between predicted grades of each class in August 2019 and January 2020. There was high value added in most areas, which was justified by the raw data showing that it was a high-performing year group.

The headteacher told governors that he had wanted to demonstrate the level of rigour in Centre Determined Grades, that the process was quality assured and underpinned by evidence. Jane Jerman and Simon Creasey were thanked for their outstanding presentation and the huge amount of work put into their analysis which had been used nationally as an example of excellent practice.

Governors commented that the presentation had been very impressive and asked if pupils were aware of how CDG were determined. Governors were told that pupils were aware of what was required of them, but that the detail had not been shared to avoid causing confusion.

Details of the appeals process were still not known, but governors felt that the CDG awards process was rigorous and that grades could be justified where necessary.

Governors asked how the process worked when there were few pupils taking a course. It was explained that the use of four years of data helped to establish a reliable mean and that the data was used to inform discussion at individual pupil level if required. This lack of nuance at national level had contributed greatly to the problems when grades were issued in summer 2020.

6. BUDGET 2021-22, PRIMARY SCHOOL

The final 2020-21 budget showed a cumulative surplus of around £200K, due to a combination of the savings made whilst the pupils were educated off-site and an increase in grant funding. No clawback letters were requested by the LA for this year. An in-year deficit was forecast for each of the following three years.

The headteacher had a meeting with David Thompson (LA Schools Estates Manager) scheduled to discuss the category of the school buildings. The buildings were currently categorised C, but as they had deteriorated over time and schools in category D had been replaced and improved, it seemed that the school should be re-categorised as D. There was a significant difference between the condition of the school buildings and other schools categorised as C.

The headteacher planned to commission the replacement of some of the single-glazed metal-framed windows. However, it was recognised that there would need to be a balance found between funding much needed premises improvements from the school budget and potentially jeopardising any future 21st Century Schools capital investment from the LA. Governors felt that the best possible premises should be provided for the current pupils.

A recent burst pipe, forcing the closure of the school to pupils for three days, had highlighted the poor condition of the heating system. It was noted that the heating system at the secondary school utilised the same pipes which were likely to be in a similar condition. Governors were pleased that the school had only been closed for three days. The heating system would be inspected during the summer holiday or the autumn half term.

Governors accepted the budget for 2021-22.

7. BUDGET 2021-22, SECONDARY SCHOOL

The final 2020-21 budget showed a significant surplus which would be carried forward. The school was no longer required to submit a deficit recovery plan as the deficit had been paid off in full.

There would be a further review of the funding formula in the coming year, with both headteachers joining the review group, together with Danielle Hillidge as a Union representative. It was felt that single-stream schools could favour a 'per pupil' funding model, so governors were pleased that the schools would be strongly represented.

Governors accepted the budget for 2021-22.

8. SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT 2019-20, PRIMARY SCHOOL

The accounts for 2019-20 were received and accepted

9. SCHOOL FUND AND PRIZE FUND ACCOUNTS 2019-20, SECONDARY SCHOOL

The accounts for 2019-20 were received and accepted. The final audit certificates would be circulated to governors when received. It was noted that income to the prize fund was bank interest.

10. BUSINESS CASE FOR A POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN STAFFING, SECONDARY SCHOOL

It was resolved according to The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005, Section 48 that this item be minuted as confidential.

11. LA SURVEY FINDINGS; REMOTE LEARNING, JANUARY 2021

The survey findings for the LA as a whole had been circulated to governors. The LA had provided each school had been supplied with their own individual data which the headteachers would put into a document for governors.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY, INCLUDING COVID-19

Both headteachers sent their risk assessments to the chair and vice-chair whenever updated.

Unions had pressed for bubbles to be collapsed and a return to classroom-based teaching in secondary schools as soon as possible. The school would continue to follow guidance.

The primary school after school club had requested a review of the requirement to keep children in their class bubbles during club time, especially in light of the fact that children's activities such as the football club had resumed and that school transport did not segregate the class bubbles. This requirement had had a negative effect on the number of children attending club. Governors were told that it had been confirmed that class bubbles must be adhered to whilst on school premises.

The primary school risk assessment had been adjusted to allow the creation of a bubble for the whole of Year 6 on occasion. This was intended to benefit their well-being and encourage them to form a cohesive group that worked well together before their transition to secondary school. The risk was that potentially more children would need to isolate in the event of confirmed illness. A risk assessment had also been undertaken for a member of staff to accompany a pupil on visits to Brynlllywarch Hall School.

13. POLICIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Governors agreed to adopt the federation CCTV policy, as circulated.

14. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

The clerk had notified governors of any mandatory training that they had yet to complete. It was requested that training be completed as soon as possible.

15. DOCUMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS AND/OR CLERK

There were no such items.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT CONSIDERATION

Governors with AoLE responsibilities who had participated in recent appointments at the secondary school were thanked for their support.

Governors were told of three proposed staffing changes at the primary school, all from September 2021, as agreed by the staffing and finance committee:

- A maternity cover teacher would be required. It was considered preferable to appoint two supply teachers already known to the children to this position, but if HR would not support this then the position would be advertised.
- A flexible working request had been made by a teacher to change from five days per week to four days per week.
- To appoint an existing TA with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) to provide PPA and supply cover.

Governors agreed these proposals.

A governor asked if there had been any progress on the provision of school transport for pupils from Rhayader CIW school who wished to attend the English stream at the secondary school from September. The headteacher had been informed that the original LA admissions arrangements would be upheld, but the school would continue to work to find a solution for parents.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It was resolved according to The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005, Section 48 that item 10 be minuted as confidential.

18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A new template anti-bullying policy had been issued to schools by the LA and would be considered by the governing body.

19. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Full Governing Body

Wednesday 7th July 2021, 6.30 pm

Staffing and Finance Committee

Wednesday 23rd June 2021, 6.30 pm

Curriculum and Strategic Planning Committee

Wednesday 12th May 2021, 6.30 pm

The chair thanked the headteachers for their continued hard work and asked for the governing body's appreciation to be passed on to all staff.