



OLCHFA SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting
held in the Library at 5.15 pm on Wednesday 24 January 2024

Present	Dr Mahaboob Basha Cllr Mike Day Mr James Ellis Mrs Jennifer Howells Mrs Beverley Jones Mr Gareth Jones Cllr Mary Jones Mr Matthew Jones	Mr Julian Kennedy Mrs Aderinola Omole Mrs Jennifer Raynor Mrs Suzi Smith Mr Ian Stewart Mr Damian Rees Mrs Hannah Vincent
Apologies	Ms Rosina Colasanto Prof Tariq Butt Mrs Karen Holland	Prof Ann John Cllr Jeff Jones
In attendance	Mr Matthew Salmon, Deputy Headteacher Max Ellis, SAB Representative Ruby Rowlands, SAB Representative	

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FGB23.26	Apologies	
1	Apologies were received and accepted from those named above.	
FGB23.27	Minutes of the previous meeting (29 November 2023) and matters arising	
2	The minutes were agreed to be a true record. Paragraph 14: Annual Report – a draft would be circulated in due course.	Clerk
FGB23.28	SAB Update	
3	<p>Max said that, as he had mentioned last time, senior prefects were now getting more involved in the SAB. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group had also been successfully integrated into the SAB. They were looking forward to returning to full meetings of the SAB which included staff, pupils and parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Wellbeing Team, with the close involvement of Mrs Vincent, was working on a Wellbeing Fair at the school which would involve organisations such as Kooth and the YMCA. Some pupils would also attend a Wellbeing Day at the Waterfront.	

- Adapting the prayer room space was a priority and the revamped space would need to be suitable for a range of religions.
- The Community Group had been involved in the Christmas Carol Service and in taking Christmas stocking donations to Ty Olwen (which had been very well received).
- The Communication Group had organised drop-in sessions as there had been a poor uptake with year group representatives. These sessions meant that pupils could pop in to feed back on things they thought could be improved in the school. There was also an email address which could be used instead.

The Chair thanked Max and Ruby for their presentation. Dr Basha asked about the prayer room not being fit for purpose. Mr Kennedy said the issue was trying to manage the current room. They were hoping to be able to find a better space but the school was not blessed with obvious facilities. They would be weighing up various options and would report back to Governors in due course. Mr Ellis said he enjoyed the SAB update which was not only a credit to Ruby and Max but a reflection on the time and effort put into it by teaching staff. It was clear that the amount of engagement with students and pupil voice was really good and having the SAB report was a good reflection on what teachers do.

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FGB23/29 Headteacher's Report

- 4.1 Mr Kennedy said that he was trying a new style with the Headteacher's Report and would welcome Governors' feedback. He would like all the school to be represented in it in due course.
- 4.2 As Governors could see, it had been a **busy end to the Autumn term** with a film afternoon raising money for the Red Cross, staff wellbeing events (including wreath making and a quiz) and the carol service. He said he would eventually like to bring the carol service into catchment.
- 4.3 **Literacy, Languages and Communication:** Clwb Cymraeg had been promoting the use of Welsh and was helping the school work towards the Siarter Iaith Bronze Award and to promote the use and enjoyment of Welsh.
- 4.4 **Wellbeing and Inclusion:** Hannah and her pastoral team were using their experience to organise and host training for other local schools and for work with parents and

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	carers. This included the six week 'Time out for Parents – The Teenage Years' where parents/carers could speak in safety about the issues involved in bringing up a teenager. The school had also hosted training by Platfform, a Welsh mental health charity.	
4.5	Mrs Wall had organised DARPL professional learning training in association with the Council. Representatives from partner and other primaries and a number of secondary schools had benefited from some very thought-provoking training.	
4.6	Reducing litter campaign: Litter had always been a massive issue at the school and Year 8 pupils were analysing data and working with members of the school community (eg caretaking staff) to try to find a solution.	
4.7	For Holocaust Memorial Day Mr Kennedy would be attending an event at the Liberty Stadium. Mat Devany and some Year 10 History students would be representing the school.	
4.8	Attendance currently stood at 91.47% for the first term. This was an improvement on the same time the year before. As Governors were aware, all schools were facing attendance issues. It was up to Olchfa to create an environment where pupils wanted to be. The work on improving attendance would continue.	
4.9	Figures on young people in the legal safeguarding categories were included in his report. Governors said this was illuminating and showed how the school had changed over time. Mr Kennedy said it was important to recognise that Olchfa was not a 'posh' school – the demographics were much more complicated than that. There was obviously a higher level of need post-pandemic and Hannah's team was working hard to encourage and support pupils.	
FGB23.30	Link Governors	
5	Referring to the updated list of Link Governor preferences, Mr Kennedy asked Governors to email the Clerk with their first and second choices. Mr Kennedy said he would speak to staff about Link Governors at the next Learning Manager meeting. The Clerk undertook to add Mr Williams and Mrs Wall to the list for ALN and Inclusion and Diversity respectively.	All Clerk
FGB23.31	Uniform consultation	
6	Mr Kennedy said that parents were engaging in the consultation. Two of the main messages coming through	

concerned allowing pupils to wear any black footwear and coats of any colour. He said he would probably agree with this. Staff responses were now coming in. There was an approximately 50/50 split in terms of wearing PE kit all the time/wearing uniform and changing. The quotes for the changing facilities were coming in much higher than expected and this would need looking at before it came back to the relevant committee for a decision. Pupil responses would be requested next. Responses would be collated and then a meeting arranged to finalise any changes so that parents could be informed in time for purchasing uniform in the summer holidays. There would be a transition period for some year groups (year 10 into 11, for example).

FGB23.32 School Development Priorities - Update

7 Mr Kennedy said that Mr Salmon had done an excellent job producing the SDP document which Governors had seen. Today he wanted to look at the bigger picture: what was Olchfa's Cynefin and what was the school doing about trying to establish, promote and nurture it? He had started the debate with the Senior Leadership Team who had created a spider diagram of their various ideas regarding values, moral purpose and principles and the different ways in which these could be manifested. They did not want this to be a top-down approach but would share what they thought with the wider school community in due course in order to be able to come to an agreed shared identity. This fed into Matt Salmon's development planning and sat under everything the school was all about.

Cllr Day left the meeting at 6.07 pm.

FGB23.33 Sianel Update

8 Mr Kennedy reminded Governors that Tracey Bramer was running the Sianel research programme in conjunction with the university (UWTSD). This was now the second year and a new cohort had come through. He had delivered a session on leadership within schools the previous week and the group had been engaged and asked lots of questions. There were not many schools doing this and it was a high quality professional offer in the face of difficult recruitment into teaching. Spare places this year had been offered to partner primaries but it was possible there was not enough understanding of what it was and how it worked. Mr Stewart asked what the retention rate was. Mr Kennedy said he would get Mrs Bramer to send out

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that information and ask her to present to Governors in due course.

FGB23.34 Menopause Group - Update

9 The Chair said that she and Mrs Howells had met with a cross-section of female staff and had very useful discussions. The Chair and Mrs Howells had met with Mr Kennedy and Mr Roberts to explain the group's concerns and see what could be done in terms of making Olchfa a comfortable place to work for women experiencing menopause symptoms. Staff as a whole would also need to be educated as to what menopause involved for women. The next step would then be to bring a revised policy back to the Governing Body.

10 In answer to a question from Dr Basha, Mr Kennedy said a Neurodiversity Policy would be prepared at County level and then disseminated to schools.

FGB23.35 To note the date of the next meeting of the Full Governing Body

11 Governors noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.25 pm