



OLCHFA SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting
held in the Library at 5.15 pm on Wednesday 18 September 2024

Present	Dr Mahaboob Basha Prof Tariq Butt Mr James Ellis Mrs Beverley Jones Cllr Jeff Jones Cllr Mary Jones Mr Matthew Jones	Mr Julian Kennedy Mrs Kathryn Novis Mrs Aderinola Omole Mrs Suzi Smith Mr Ian Stewart Mr Damian Rees Mrs Hannah Vincent
Apologies	Ms Rosina Colasanto Cllr Mike Day	Mrs Jennifer Howells Mr Gareth Jones
Not in attendance/no apologies	Prof Ann John	
In attendance	Mr Matthew Salmon, Deputy Headteacher	

		ACTION
	The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.	
FGB24.23	Welcome Kathryn Novis, new Community Governor	
1	The Chair welcomed Kathryn Novis and asked all present to introduce themselves.	
FGB24.24	Apologies	
2	Apologies were received and accepted from those named above.	
FGB24.25	Minutes of the meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 3 July 2024	
3	The minutes were agreed to be a true record. Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair confirmed that she had written to Max Ellis and Ruby Rowlands to thank them for their contribution as Associate Pupil Governors. The Chair confirmed she would write to Mrs Raynor to thank her for her contribution to the Governing Body and to Mr Marsh and Ms Boulter when she had more information about those who had taken part in the Big Bang Competition at the NEC in Birmingham. Matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 16: The Clerk would speak to Mr Roberts about DBS checks for Governors. 	Clerk

- **Paragraph 18:** It had been confirmed that Mr Rees could undertake safeguarding training for Governors. It might be possible to invite feeder primaries in to attend.
- **Paragraph 19:** It was noted that the Grievance Policy was on the LA's list for an update this year.

FGB24.26 Governor updates

4 The Chair noted that Cllr Jeff Jones's re-appointment as LA Governor had been confirmed. Mr Rees's appointment as LA Governor would be confirmed in due course. The Terms of Office for Prof Butt and Mrs Smith were up on 2 November and the Clerk would be organising a ballot. The Chair said she very much hoped that they would stand for re-election.

FGB24.27 Vision for the School

5 Mr Kennedy presented his Vision for the school – 'Olchfa's *cynefin*' (attached). He said the vision was hinged around *cynefin* and had been distilled into a single document from all the work and discussions that had taken place with staff and pupils. The essence had been further distilled into ten words and statements which he then ran through and explained. He said this was something that everyone connected with the school could support and get behind. He would be sharing elements of this with families at the Achievement Evening the following week. The Chair thanked Mr Kennedy for his presentation.

FGB24.28 Headteacher's Report

6 Mr Kennedy ran through his Headteacher's report which had been circulated before the meeting. The following points arose in addition:

6.1 Mr Kennedy pointed out that **Year 12 this year was very large at 287**. This was good in that it meant that students wanted to join the Sixth Form, but it did pose some difficulties for the Year 12 team and he was grateful for all the work they had done. He was conscious that more students had implications for staff. There were large classes in maths, the sciences and psychology. Investment was needed in the Sixth Form area. Any extra staffing required would need to be sustainable and he noted that his year could just be a blip. He pointed out that there was a higher number of pupils in school who needed more scaffolding and pastoral care: the post-pandemic effect was still very evident.

6.2 The **staff wellbeing day** had gone really well and it was great to see staff in different context.

- 6.3 **The Great Experiences** trips and activities had been a lovely end to the year. There had been a combination of free activities in school and paid trips and visits. The school wanted to be inclusive and to provide something for everyone.
- 6.4 **Sports Day** had turned into sports morning as the weather had deteriorated drastically. Everyone had, nevertheless, had a great time. The event had been competitive in the best way and all credit was due to the PE department.
- 6.5 **Sketty and Swansea Mosques.** Mr Kennedy said he had enjoyed his visit to Sketty Mosque to honour members of Wales's communities with links to the Windrush generation and its celebration of the achievements of the academic success of young people in the area.
- 6.6 **Starters and leavers:** Mr Kennedy ran through the staff who had left and those who were new. He said that recruitment was still a major issue.

Mrs Vincent and Mrs Aderinola left the meeting at 6.05 pm to attend the Year 7 Form Tutor Evening.

- 6.7 In terms of staffing and because of budget constraints, the school was having to ask not when but if, staff were to be replaced.
- 6.8 Mr Kennedy said that the Year 11 and Year 13 proms had been very successful events and the students had been a credit to the school.

FGB24.29 Examination Results update

- 7 Mr Salmon ran through the recent KS4 and KS5 results which Governors had received but pointed out that the information did not contain the value added tables. He said the reason for this was because it was connected to the impact of Covid on Wales and the UK more widely and a rebalancing of some of the inflation in grades which had occurred over that period. He would have a better idea of value added data by the next meeting in November. The main points to be drawn from the information provided were that, in KS4, performance held up despite challenges. It was important to consider the differences between cohorts and, at the 'top end' there were some differences between boys and girls which could be cohort-dependent or part of a longer term trend and that the school needed to explore what it could do to enhance the performance of boys without being detrimental to the girls.

Mrs Jones left the meeting at 6.25 pm

- 8 **AS Level performance** was slightly down in A-E, A-C and A-B than last year. (Mr Salmon noted that AS grades were always lower than those at A2) In some cases subjects were impacted by the number of entries. Some groups were small so it was difficult to make comparisons although there were comparisons included in the box at the bottom of the document. This would have to be looked at carefully as Year 12 moved through Year 13. **A Level results** were strong again, with a good performance overall. Mr Salmon said that, regardless of what the school thought of comparisons, the LA included them in the data.
- 9 The school remained committed to **Welsh Bacculaureate** despite the debates around its provision. In terms of university entry, it provided a buffer for some students.
- 10 The school obviously needed to balance the demands of offering a wide range of subjects with financial constraints going forward but it remained committed to providing a broad and high-quality education for pupils. The Chair thanked Mr Salmon for his presentation.
- FGB24.30 Next meeting of the Full Governing Body**
- 11 Governors noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 20 November 2024.
- 12 There being no further business, the Chair thanked all present for attending and the meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.