



Ysgol Uwchradd LLANIDLOES High School

**GOFAL**

Giving Opportunities For All to Learn



## MINUTES

**Llanidloes Schools' Federation Governing Body Meeting; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 6.30 pm via Teams on Hwb**

## PRESENT

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

## IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Ashton (primary school deputy headteacher), Richard Williams (secondary school assistant headteacher), Lisa Stead (primary school teacher and Eco lead), Helen Rees (clerk)

*The chair thanked the headteachers and staff for their hard work during a difficult term. It was noted that the secondary school had achieved ninth place in The Times list of the top ten schools in Wales.*

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Phyl Davies.

***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. SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS STEERING GROUP

Lisa Stead explained that the sustainable school group had been formed two years previously with the aim of making the schools carbon-neutral within ten years. The group included school, parent and community representatives.

Pupils from both schools had been engaged in a wide range of eco projects including a climate display at the Minerva Arts Centre in town, working with The Size of Wales, a green day, planting up tractor tyres, constructing a wildlife-friendly quiet area in the playground, an oak tree project, Forest School, recycling crisp packets and planting 300 trees.

The sustainable school group proposed commissioning a feasibility study into the installation of solar panels at the schools. The study would initially be funded by £4K from the Hanging Gardens Project, and potentially by another £10K from a funding bid which had been made by Duncan Burwood from Zero Carbon Llanidloes.

The group envisaged a community project, with the schools benefitting from free installation of solar panels and a reduction in the price of electricity from 18p per unit to 11p per unit. Community investors would take a small profit.

If agreed, the group would need information from the schools such as whether new buildings were planned or the panels would be retro-fitted to existing buildings, details of current electricity usage and cost and the area of suitable roof space available. It would be important to plan works carefully, for example, to insulate the roof space well before the panels were fitted.

The secondary headteacher commented that it was an exciting idea and that the business manager could supply the group with the information required. It was thought that, even though the buildings were not in category B, a case could be made to the LA for capital investment in the buildings. A firm proposal could form part of the vision for the future of the schools put forward to the transformation team.

The primary headteacher thanked Mrs Stead for her work on this proposal and her enthusiasm for eco issues in the school and wider community. It was noted that the current fabric of the roof might not be suitable for retro-fit panels.

Governors admired the aspirational nature of the proposal and agreed that it should be fully supported.

***Lisa Stead left the meeting***

***All staff governors and attendees left the meeting (Daniel Owen, Elen Chenetier, Lauren Morris, Ruth Davies, Jamie Jones, Dan Craig, Lisa Ashton, Richard Williams)***

## **15. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### ***ii. Headteacher's performance management***

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

***All staff governors and attendees rejoined the meeting (Daniel Owen, Elen Chenetier, Lauren Morris, Ruth Davies, Jamie Jones, Dan Craig, Lisa Ashton, Richard Williams)***

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

There were no vacancies on the governing body.

## **5. BUSINESS OF MEETING**

The order of business was varied for item 15. ii.

## **6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes and confidential minutes of the meetings of the governing body held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November were confirmed and would be filed in the schools' file.

## **7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

It was noted that the Town Council had submitted a response to the LA draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

## **8. HEADTEACHERS' REPORTS**

### ***i. Secondary school***

The headteacher drew governors' attention to the Support Visit 1 report, received following a recent visit by the School Improvement Adviser. Helpful feedback had been received, especially around the consistency of marking, which was currently under review, and the identification of priorities for each milestone within the School Development Plan.

### ***ii. Primary school***

The headteacher expressed thanks to the staff who had undertaken rigorous monitoring activities regarding standards and progress of learners. The recent safeguarding audit and the study into positive outcomes in education of COVID-19 were highlighted. Governors commented that it was refreshing to hear positive outcomes and that it was a reflective and interesting read. Governors were told that the headteacher had presented the paper to a recent meeting of Powys headteachers where it had been well-received by colleagues and officers.

## **9. LOCAL AUTHORITY AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

The issues raised at a previous meeting of the governing body had been discussed with colleagues and officers. Although it was felt that the agreement had been much improved, it had been recognised that stakeholder consultation would have been beneficial.

Governors acknowledged that it would be necessary to sign the document. The secondary headteacher proposed an addition to the final paragraph:

The Governing Body notes the content and agrees to accept the Powys Local Authority -School Partnership Agreement document until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 or until such time as there is a material change, for example as a result of new Welsh Government or Estyn policy and procedure, *on the following basis:*

- *There is understanding that complying with the ALN requirements on page 16 will take time (especially where these go beyond the requirements of the ALN Bill);*
- *The post-16 arrangements on pages 21-22 are not yet finalised and will continue to be co-constructed with governors and school leaders;*
- *The LA has carried out appropriate risk assessments, and delivered sufficient support, to enable the school to safely admit hard to place pupils.*

Governors agreed the proposal.

## **10. POLICIES AND PUBLICATIONS**

Governors were told that the primary school Pupil Discipline Policy had been altered to include the new procedure for notifying the LA of exclusions. The Intimate Care Policy was not a statutory policy but was required by the Healthcare Needs Policy which was statutory. The Procedure for Bringing Animals into School had

recently been found to be necessary. Governors agreed that the policies and procedure were appropriate to the needs of the schools and agreed to adopt all three.

### ***Kelly Hawkins joined the meeting***

## **11. PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA CONSULTATION**

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

## **12. DRAFT THREE-YEAR VISION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The secondary headteacher presented a draft three-year vision and told governors that it had been a useful exercise to review the previous three years and the foundational aims and ethos of the school in order to formulate future aims. Overall, standards had been found to be good, with some areas excellent, and the value-added at the end of KS4 put the school in the top quartile.

The federation was embedding well with collaboration on developing the Curriculum for Wales and AoLEs to ensure continuity of provision. A cross-phase transition project was planned and other areas for collaborative working would be identified.

There had been a 26% rise in the number of pupils on roll in the last three years which had put enormous pressure on available space and meant that some teachers did not have a fixed classroom. However, this rise in numbers had made it possible to invest in additional staffing capacity, for example, the recent appointments of ten specialist teachers. The number of pupils in the Welsh stream also continued to rise. Applications for Year 7 in September 2022 had been oversubscribed by around twenty places.

The school budget was healthy and the facilities were good but significant capital investment into the fabric of the buildings was required to improve the pupil learning experience.

Staff were involved in many examples of wider partnership working to share best practice.

Wellbeing provision had been improved and it was considered that wellbeing support was excellent. Post-16 provision was currently under development. The leadership team had been strengthened, particularly middle leadership where several appointments had greatly increased capacity. Evaluation and planning had been identified as areas for improvement.

ALN provision was effective and every member of staff had received training on the new ALN Code. The school was starting to use the new LA Tyfu platform.

Four aims for future development had been identified:

1. To design a world-class new curriculum. All curriculum areas were working on their new AoLE and developing new strategies for teaching and learning.
2. To deliver the best teaching and value-added standards in Wales. The Great Teaching Toolkit had been introduced to identify effective practice, enhance the quality of teaching and give pupils a voice in teaching and learning. Practice would be tracked against other schools throughout the UK.
3. To develop an outstanding wellbeing provision.

4. To grow the Welsh first language provision so that it was accessed by more than 40% of learners. Good progress was being made in implementing the Siarter Iaith which was starting to have an impact.

Governors asked for the vision to be circulated to further reflect on. The headteacher was thanked for his work in compiling the document and were pleased to see so many effective initiatives in place.

### **13. HEALTH AND SAFETY, INCLUDING COVID-19**

Governors asked if visits to school in person were permissible yet. The latest advice to the primary school from the LA was that group visits were not permissible, but one governor at a time could be admitted to the premises once a risk assessment had been completed. Governors were advised that Teams meetings to listen to learners were unlikely to be effective with younger pupils. Governors were concerned that they were not currently fulfilling their duties but had been reassured to learn that much monitoring by school staff had been undertaken. School staff were excited to celebrate their achievements with governors and it was hoped that some visits would take place early in the new term. Visits to the secondary school would still be difficult to arrange safely, although there was some flexibility in the dynamic risk assessment. It was agreed that visits would be discussed again early in the new year with the Curriculum and Strategic Planning committee and that the schools would start looking at their risk assessments now in readiness.

The primary school emails and digital storage were due to be migrated from the in-school server to Hwb during the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> December. Governors were told that it might not be possible to respond to emails at some points during this week.

The schools were receiving clear advice from the LA on whether the Covid-19 risk was low, medium, high or very high. Measures specified in the risk assessments were in place and effective.

### **14. GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS**

The Governors' Annual Reports to Parents were being compiled with the aim of distributing them to parents by the end of term.

### **15. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### ***i) Curriculum and Strategic Planning committee***

This committee had met on 21<sup>st</sup> October and the minutes had been shared with all governors. The LA draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan had been discussed extensively. The committee had considered their role in monitoring and had asked each AoLE leader for some very brief information in order to understand the current position and the need for future development.

#### ***iii) Staffing and Finance committee***

This committee had met on 24<sup>th</sup> November and the minutes had been shared with all governors. The merits of requesting increased capital investment from the LA had been discussed.

***All staff governors and attendees left the meeting (Daniel Owen, Elen Chennetier, Lauren Morris, Ruth Davies, Jamie Jones, Dan Craig, Lisa Ashton, Richard Williams)***

#### ***iv) Pay committee***

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

***All staff governors and attendees rejoined the meeting (Daniel Owen, Elen Chennetier, Lauren Morris, Ruth Davies, Jamie Jones, Dan Craig, Lisa Ashton, Richard Williams)***

***Lorna Morris left the meeting***

#### **16. LOCAL AUTHORITY WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)**

The governing body's response to the LA draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan had been submitted.

#### **17. TO DISCUSS HEALTHY TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

Governors recognised that there were health, environment and community benefits of pupils walking and cycling to school. However, travel to school needed to be safe. Governors were told that the Community Policing Team and LA Transport Department had been asked to monitor parking and safety concerns, including seatbelt and child car seat checks.

With nearly a thousand pupils travelling to and from the sites daily, the volume of all modes of transport was high and problems were increasing. The LA Active Travel Scheme and Safe Routes to School would be investigated as potential sources of support. It was noted that one of the problems was with parents dropping off children for both schools on the road opposite the primary school, then using the primary school car park as a roundabout to drive back into town. Solutions needed to be found, possibly with incentives for parents to park and walk the last part of the journey with their children. It was felt that possibly the high school uniform policy did not facilitate walking to school as children needed to wear sturdy, practical shoes for walking, especially in the winter.

Governors noted that in Newtown a road safety officer had arranged for parents to have a pass for the town car park in order to walk to a nearby school.

The primary headteacher was meeting again with the police the following week.

A bulb in one of the zebra crossing lights beside the schools was still broken and awaiting replacement.

#### **18. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT**

No training needs were identified.

#### **19. DOCUMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS AND/OR CLERK**

There were no such items.

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

There were no such matters.

**21. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

It was resolved according to The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005, Section 48 that items 11, 15 ii) and 15 iv) be minuted as confidential.

**22. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The chair asked that governors notify the clerk of any such items.

**23. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

***Full governing body***

09.02.22

23.03.22

27.04.22 (*second full day of term; needed for budget approval*)

06.07.22

***Curriculum and strategic planning committee***

26.01.22

18.05.22

***Staffing and finance committee***

09.03.21 (*last meeting before budget approval; Easter holiday 09.04.22 – 24.04.22*)

22.06.22