



MINUTES

Llanidloes Schools' Federation Governing Body Meeting; Wednesday 12 February 2025, 6.30 pm at the primary school

PRESENT

Margot Jones, Clare Bound, Daniel Owen, Elen Chennetier, Gareth Morgan, Sarah Purdy, Adrian Foulkes, Christoph Schultz, Louise Jones, Sally Fowler, Megan Higgs, Jamie Jones, John Owen

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Ashton (primary school deputy headteacher), Jane Jerman (secondary school assistant headteacher), Sue Bound (high school business manager), Huw Cripps (secondary school Lead SIA), Nia Evans (Croco-doco-dile treasurer), Emma Macken (Croco-doco-dile play leader), Helen Rees (clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Linda Broughall and Iwan James.

The meeting was quorate, therefore business proceeded.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST/BUSINESS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest in this agenda.

3. CROCS, EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Megan Higgs and Jamie Jones left the meeting

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

Nia Evans and Emma Macken left the meeting

Megan Higgs and Jamie Jones re-joined the meeting

4. SECONDARY SCHOOL POST-INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)

John Owen left the meeting

Huw Cripps joined the meeting (via Teams)

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

Huw Cripps left the meeting

John Owen re-joined the meeting

5. MEMBERSHIP

John Owen was welcomed to his first meeting as an associate pupil governor.

There were two vacancies for teacher governors and two for staff governors. Nominations had been requested by 14 February.

Governors were pleased to welcome Dan Owen back following his recent absence.

Governors expressed condolences to Richard Williams on his recent family bereavement and thanked him for taking on additional responsibilities during the headteacher's absence.

Governors were told that a secondary school member of staff had been involved in a traffic collision earlier in the day but was recovering well.

6. BUSINESS OF MEETING

It was agreed to follow the order of business as set out in the agenda. The chair told governors that several items had been identified for discussion under 'any other business'.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the governing body held on 4 December were confirmed and would be filed in the schools' file.

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

There were no such matters.

9. TO CO-OPT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE GOVERNING BODY AND COMMITTEES

It was agreed to co-opt Lisa Ashton as a member of the Curriculum and Strategic Planning committee.

10. COMMITTEE MEETING

The Curriculum and Strategic Planning committee had met on 22 January when it had been agreed to recommend that the governing body appoint link governors to each school development plan priority in order to support the schools in their work. Governors were told that the roles were not onerous, but that it was envisaged that the

governors would keep in contact with the school leads for each priority and feed back to the committee. It was suggested that meetings could be arranged on a monthly basis.

It was agreed to appoint the following link governors, utilising governor skills, interests and expertise.

Primary school:

Priority 1, to develop consistent planning for progression across the curriculum (including improving opportunities for parental engagement in learning and progression): Christoph Schultz. School lead, Lisa Ashton.

Priority 2, to improve pupils' writing skills in English: Sally Fowler. School lead, David Edwards.

Priority 3, to provide more purposeful opportunities for pupils to improve their work in response to feedback: Margot Jones. School lead, Ruth Davies.

Secondary school:

Priority 1, ensure that leaders prioritise precisely the aspects of provision that need the most improvement: Adrian Foulkes. School lead, Dan Owen.

Priority 2, improve the quality of teaching to address the shortcomings noted in the report: Clare Bound.

Priority 3, ensure that there is a well-co-ordinated and understood approach to the progressive development of pupils' skills: Sarah Purdy.

Priority 4, improve school attendance: Linda Broughall.

Priority 5, address the health and safety issue identified during the inspection: Jamie Jones. School lead, Sue Bound.

11. STATUTORY POLICIES AND PUBLICATIONS DUE FOR REVIEW IN THE SPRING TERM

Governors were told that the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Policy, CCTV Policy, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, Freedom of Information Policy, Redundancy Policy and Procedure, secondary school RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) Policy and Special Leave Policy had all been reviewed with no substantive changes. Governors agreed to adopt the policies as circulated.

The primary school RSE Policy was being updated to include a new scheme that had been received from the schools nursing team and would be brought to the next governing body meeting.

The application period for the LA Voluntary Severance Scheme 2024-25 had been extended. The Scheme was adopted.

New policies for Bereavement in Schools and Young Carers in Schools had been drawn up according to the LA templates and were adopted.

The Cluster Transition Plan 2024-25 had been reviewed at the cluster headteachers' meeting earlier in the day, but not all cluster schools had been represented. The plan was adopted.

12. SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNTS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The primary school school fund accounts and audit certificate for 2023-24 were not yet available so would be considered at the next meeting of the governing body.

The secondary school school fund accounts for 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 had been circulated to governors. The business manager had brought the audit certificates to the meeting, so it was agreed to consider these at the next meeting of the Staffing and Finance committee. Governors asked why there was a delay in presenting the accounts and were told that it had taken some time get around to producing them.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Governors were told that a significant water leak had been located under the 3G pitch. During the course of the pitch construction, the contractors had damaged a water main. They had effected a repair, but LA officers had expressed doubt at the time that this would be sufficient, as had proved the case. The leak had now been repaired. The primary school headteacher told governors that LA officers would apply to Hafren Dyfrdwy for a 'leak allowance'. To prove that the leak had been repaired, two water readings taken two weeks apart had to be submitted. The readings had been taken but showed that there was another smaller leak. Governors asked how many applications could be made for leak allowance and were told just one application could be made. Governors agreed that funds from the delegated budget should not have to be spent on the leak, especially as it was the fault of the original contractor, not the schools.

The primary school headteacher told governors that there had been three major premises issues in the space of two weeks. The repair of the water leak had caused the upper school corridor to be without water for several days and there had been a roof leak affecting four classrooms. More than 500 books, many phonics resources and other resources collected by teachers over many years had been destroyed but it was unlikely that there would be any compensation. LA officers had made arrangements for the regular clearance of moss from the roof. The third issue had been a boiler failure, when the lack of heating had resulted in closure for half a day. The headteacher told governors that the children had coped very well with all the disruption to their normal routines and that LA officers and work teams had been supportive and helpful.

Governors asked if the roadworks due to the Active Travel scheme had caused issues for the schools and were told that some buses had had difficulties but there were no major problems.

Governors were told that following the unauthorised access of a person to the secondary school site, the code to enter through the DT door had been changed and 'no entry' signs had been installed. It was not possible to routinely lock the perimeter gate as it was a fire exit route. Governors asked if there was a date for completion of the perimeter fencing and were told that it should be finished by the beginning to middle of May, including the installation of two intercom points.

Some secondary school teachers had been working beyond their contracted maximum of 1265 hours per annum due to the issue of 'trapped time' – for example, if an after-school meeting started at 6.00 pm but the teacher lived too far away for it to be practical to travel home and back. It was agreed that the headteacher would liaise to resolve the issue.

14. SAFEGUARDING

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

The primary school headteacher told governors that the school's annual safeguarding review was updated every February for submission to the LA. The update would be shared with governors when complete.

15. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

Governors were reminded to notify the clerk of any training completed.

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

There were no such items.

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

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

Governors were told that the LA admissions consultation for arrangements in 2026-27 was open until 1 March. Following the decision to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it was proposed to remove the Newtown area from the Llanidloes Welsh-medium catchment area. There were usually around 10 pupils per year from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd forming around 40-45% of the Welsh-medium stream, so the change would have a significant impact at a time when the Welsh-medium stream had been built up to the largest it had ever been.

Parents were able to choose their child's school, but free school transport was not provided for those living outside the catchment area. There was a bus from Newtown, but this was entirely funded by parents, so the proposal would effectively decrease parental choice.

Governors agreed that the proposal would have significant impact and could set a precedent for other areas of the school catchment, for example, the catchment for any future Welsh-medium secondary school provision in Builth Wells could include Rhayader. Governors felt that the dual-stream culture enhanced integration in the community but that this had not been recognised by LA officers. The availability of both English and Welsh-medium streams in a single school increased flexibility for families as pupils were able to change streams with minimum disruption. The proposal would also have the effect of discouraging Welsh-medium uptake at primary level as the secondary provision for local Welsh-medium pupils would be weakened. Governors commented that plans to establish a Welsh-medium stream at the primary school had not been encouraged by LA officers.

It was agreed that the headteacher would draft a response to the consultation to circulate to governors for approval and an aide memoire to be sent to parents to encourage them to respond.

The primary school headteacher proposed that part of an additional £13K grant received should be used to fund a fourth and final canopy for the Foundation Learning outside area. Governors agreed the proposal.

Governors asked how the number of pupils applying for post-16 provision at the school could be increased as projected numbers for September 2025 were low, with no course having more than ten applicants. Governors were told that Year 11 pupils had not yet indicated their choices for Year 12 but that there would be some opting for alternative provisions, for example, those pupils preferring to specialise in one area rather than the traditional three A levels.

The headteacher told governors that there was currently a national review of post-16 provision and that the LA was thought to favour a model of post-16 provision in four hub towns. Headteachers had been asked for a confidential review and the announcement of a wider consultation was expected in the Spring term. Sixth Forms were the most popular provision according to the numbers on roll and local provision was in the best interests of students. Governors were told that provision could be tailored to individual students' aspirations.

Lisa Ashton, Jane Jerman, Sue Bound and John Owen left the meeting

18. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It was resolved according to The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005, Section 48 that items 3, 4 and part of items 14 and 17 be minuted as confidential.

19. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Governors were asked to notify any such items to the clerk.

20. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Full governing body

Wednesday 19 March

Wednesday 30 April (budget approval 2024-25; first week of term)

Wednesday 2 July

Curriculum and strategic planning committee

Wednesday 14 May

Staffing and finance committee

Wednesday 9 April (budget approval 2025-26; last week of term)

Wednesday 18 June

An additional meeting of the staffing and finance committee would be arranged and the date notified to committee members.