



**MINUTES  
FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE  
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY  
HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021  
at 6.00pm via teams**

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Date raised
2.1	GM to invite MF and DS to a meeting in January to discuss Yrs 11 and 13 results	GM	01/12/2021
3.2	MF and DS to raise the need for additional counselling support for students at WSC with the Trust.	MF/DS	01/12/20201



Signed.....



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FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE  
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*Chair: Martina Forster; Headteacher: Gregg Mockridge:*

**Members**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> </ul>	Martina Forster Michelle Butterworth Geoff Dibble Debbie Shelley Jane Armstrong Paul Widgery Gregg Mockridge	(MF) (MB) (GD) (DS) (JA) (PW) (GM)	Chair      Arrived 6.28pm Head teacher
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**In Attendance**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> <li>✓</li> </ul>	Fran Davis Anna Lacey Cat Hargreaves Nic Spicer	(FD) (AL) (CH) (NS)	Clerk
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**1. Procedural Matters**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non acceptance.  
  
 MB sent apologies as unable to attend due to ill health  
 JA will be stepping down after this meeting.
- 1.2 Declaration of Interest  
  
 None



Signed.....

- 1.3 Code of conduct
- Governors confirmed they have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct
- 1.4 Minutes from last meeting dated 15 September 2021
- Minutes were agreed as accurate
- Actions outstanding
- GM, GD and MB to confirm by email whether there are any changes to their Declaration of Interest form 2020 - **Completed.**
  - Link Governor for Pupil Premium to be discussed at next meeting – **Completed** MB has decided not to take this role and therefore MF will take it on.
  - GM, GD and MB to confirm by email they have read and understood the Keeping Children in
  - Education (Part 2) document – **Completed**
  - DS to look further into the question - does our vision include what the children who have left the school will have achieved and report back to the LGB – **Completed** DS has looked through the website and our vision statement and feels it clearly sets out what we want our children to achieve when they leave us.
  - GM to arrange for the document to have the correct links on it - **Completed.**
  - GM would advise staff who their link governor is and staff will arrange to meet with them – **Completed** GM needs reports in from Governors in order to be able to arrange the link. DS has arranged a meeting. It was agreed that when GM receives the reports, he sends out the link and Governors will arrange the next steps themselves.
  - GM to forward the Vision Staff presentation to Governors - **Completed**
  - FD to forward Policy out to the LGB. Governors to email approval by 24 September for evidence and - **Completed.**
- 1.5 Matters arising not contained elsewhere on this agenda
- None



2 **CEO Reporting Requirements**

2.1 Head Teacher report

GM gave highlights from the report

- KPI - The P8 figure cannot be used to compare year on year results due to the National situation. Mocks will be undertaken after Christmas.

Governors asked if they should be concerned with the higher ability, pupil premium and Maths results for higher ability.  
 GM thought not, however there is concern about PP students as there is a significant number not attending college. There are 10 students in year 11 and some have very worrying attendance figures. However, we are doing everything we can, but it is time for Educating Safeguarding to step in.

It was asked if there were any reasons given for pupils not coming in.  
 There is a variety of reasons but most have a long history of education refusal.

It was asked how WSC compares with other schools, are they all facing similar challenges.  
 We are all in a similar situation, everyone is experiencing significant attendance issues and although we are not, Trust schools are also having some serious behaviour incidents to deal with.  
 GM also commented that national attendance stands at 88% which is slightly above our number for PP students.

- Yr 13 data – the deadline has been extended and when the data is available, we will share this.

It was agreed MF and DS would come in to view the data results at the end of January.

**Action** – GM to invite MF and DS to a meeting in January to discuss Yr 11 and 13 results

- Contingency plans - We will ensure moderation is in place and our systems are robust.

GM

It was asked if students are complaining about the extra work



We have carried out 2 sets of exams but the recommended suggestion of 3, we felt, was too many as students are struggling mentally and emotionally.

- Staffing – NS is leaving to go to BCA. We have started the recruitment process but have had a disappointing number of responses – 2 internal applications and 2 external.
- Sadly we will have to look to replace SC role but it will be extremely difficult to find a good replacement.
- Staffing is a massive challenge at the moment.

2.2 Y11/Y13 interim data

Covered in HT report

2.3 OA

- We are working with a national leader on developing a cohesive curriculum from R - Y13. The work will be focussed on English, maths, science and PSHCE that we all follow. We are hoping this will be ready for Sept 2022.
- All HT's across West Somerset are working together much more now.

It was asked if every school is open to adapting to this  
Yes there was an agreement to do this for the benefit of the children.

2.4 ADP

Covered in HT report

2.5 GGS/GGT information and overview

AL shared papers on how GROW is being developed at WSC and the timeline for GGT's.

It was asked if staff are following the outline and getting the fortnightly catch up sessions  
The frequency can vary but it is up to staff to organise these. However, staff have the opportunity to participate in three more formal, structured meetings to discuss their reading. AL outlined other measures in place.



A Governor asked if staff are committing to this CPD process that is being offered  
 AL advised it has not been raised through line management meetings which is where it would be expect for it to come up. If staff are not engaging there are plenty of mechanisms for picking this up.

It was asked when would you expect to see some evidence of this work coming through.  
 When staff present back at the end of the year on the research they have done this should reveal if improvements are coming out  
 Governor asked is it creating an additional workload.  
 Not as much as the previous style of appraisal. It is something that we should be doing for professional development, and it will help workload balance in the long run as things should run more smoothly.

Governors thanked AL for the report and would be pleased to receive an update on outcomes.

3 **Statutory Reports**

3.1 SEND - to include EHCP's, staffing, intervention, Edukey work

CH shared papers on the SEND report which covered the above items and also gave a presentation on how WSC systems identify students with SEN. This covered:

- Code of Practice
- How identification of need is raised
- Data analysis
- SEN referral from staff
- Quality first teaching and regular assessment

CH was thanked for an extremely useful presentation. Governors were pleased to see students were being fully supported and treated in a holistic manner.

Update was given on staffing and the successful bids that have been achieved for SEN students.

- Not as many EHCP's as last year but have had a couple of costed plans agreed this year. This has impacted on staffing and enabled us to have more TA's.



Governors were very impressed with the success of the costed plans as it is not easy getting funding for students.

- Attendance for SEN pupils is 82%. We have a number of pupils not attending college however if we take out the outliers from the data the attendance is not far off the college attendance.

A Governor noted it is not easy to engage these young people  
CH advised we are using the most amount of AV1 robots in the Trust.  
GM felt this highlights the complexity we are dealing with.

It was asked how the APEX centre is working for students and families.  
CH advised it is a good provision for certain students. Regular meetings are held and feedback from parents has been good. Unfortunately we do have some students who are not engaging with this.  
What happens when they do not engage  
We try other things, move work online and 1:1 work. We offer quite a lot to help them engage. Parents are also involved in each step.

It was asked for an outline on EduKey  
CH advised it is a provision mapping software brought in across the Trust schools. It holds all inclusion provision in one place.

It was asked if there was anything more that could be done to support students  
CH felt we have a comprehensive list of interventions that do meet the needs of the students. However, we are also reviewing interventions to ensure they are relevant and working.

Governors thanked CH for such a detailed report.



3.2 Attendance information & Safeguarding, HSB plan, trust level support

NS explained the background to the Sexual Harassment and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) audit and shared the HSB plan with governors. The plan outlined actions, what mechanisms have been put in place, by whom and the deadline.

It was asked if incidents are expected to increase as pupils feel more confident in sharing this information.  
Yes, the figures are going up which is a good sign. When they do report incidents, we ask the students what they want to do next.  
It was asked if someone moderates the focus groups  
No, the focus is government scripted and then when we find out what students want, we can decide how to react as a college.  
It was asked who runs the group  
The Trust safeguarding Lead ran the first few but we need to get someone independent, away from the school to do these in future.

Governors felt this was a huge undertaking as well as ensuring the momentum continues.

It was asked if other schools in the Trust were undertaking this audit  
I am assuming so as it has been driven by SP and PLE initially.

The safeguarding link governor advised he has met with NS and been in touch with SP about a couple of queries.

The violent behaviour is of concern and although it is reassuring to see measures that have been put in place however it is an uncomfortable read.  
The S/G Governor felt that if suitable resources and support can be found for the violent behaviour that will help.  
GM advised unfortunately the culture here is to hit back and parents agree with this.  
It was asked what could be done with regard to the violent behaviour being demonstrated in college.





We have had numerous external visitors into college but some students and parents do not want to engage in this.  
Is this behaviour being seen in middle schools  
Yes it is but only a few of them.

NS raised the mental health counselling gap has not been filled by Young Somerset (YS). Our students are passed onto the Trust but there is a waiting list and very few are getting appointments.

It was asked if the solution is to have more counsellors either internally or buy it in.  
Yes, if that was possible.  
What percentage of students are you referring to  
We could refer 10 right now.

It was asked if the Trust are aware of the need.  
This would be raised with AB as Director of Inclusion and then passed to PLE. HM, Trust counsellor, was in last week to support students and it was raised then However HM is responsible for every school at the moment and her resources are stretched. YS were supposed to provide 100 places for us and two middle schools but between us only 7 places have been offered for the whole year.  
NS advised there is a very narrow criteria to gain the support from YS.

Governors were sad and very frustrated to hear that mental health has already been flagged as a concern and there is still a need. It was suggested the LGB could bring this to the attention of the Trust.

**Action** – MF and DS to raise the need for additional counselling support for students at WSC with the Trust.

MF/DS

- Attendance - NS advised we are trying to offer anything to get the pupils into school but the common theme for not coming into college is the anxiety students feel that they cannot walk through the door of the class, but we do not have the resources to help this.
- GM will be picking up the DSL role in the short term but we will be getting admin support for



CL. However it will be massively challenging and very tough over the next few months.

Governors were very concerned about GM undertaking the DSL role and were worried about the impact on his well being.

4 **Approval of Policy**

4.1 Admissions

Governors have read and in agreement with the Policy. This will be approved by the Board and will be consulted upon.

5 **AOB**

Uniform guidelines

We are not lending uniform out due to Covid but we are seeing more students not attending in uniform. We are therefore looking to edit the behaviour policy and sanctions will be put in place if students are not wearing the correct uniform.

Governors were in agreement with this however wanted to be sure that welfare students would be supported and not penalised. GM confirmed there were measures in place to ensure these students have access to the uniform at a reasonable cost or if not comes out of a separate budget.

6 **Date of next meeting - Wednesday 16 February 2022 via Teams**

