

Cantell School
Minutes of the Reconvened Whole Governing Body Meeting
held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

Present:

Glynis Alexander (Chair)
Emma Bradshaw
Julian Bryant
Matt Bunday
John Draper
John Groves
Harry Kutty (Head)
Ben Hiett
Peter Hilditch
Nicola Hunt

In Attendance:

Claire Herridge (Deputy Headteacher)
Rhys Fehners (Assistant Headteacher)
Siobhan Dodd (Assistant Headteacher)
Steve Godwin (Assistant Headteacher)
Michelle Burt (Clerk to Governors)

Apologies:

None

57/24 Declaration Pecuniary or Business Interests Action

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or Business Interests.

58/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th June 2024

Governors AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2024 as a true record of the meeting, which were signed accordingly by the Chair.

59/24 Matters Arising

Governors NOTED that all outstanding Matters Arising would be dealt with in the new academic year.

60/24 Governor Meeting Dates 2024/25

Governors AGREED the proposed meeting dates for 2024/25 and NOTED that meetings will now take place on a Thursday. All

Governors also AGREED that Governor Finance & Staffing Committee meetings would continue to take place on a Wednesday.

61/24 Chair Summary

The Chair said that it is the end of another busy year.

The Chair commented that she has been pleased to read the Governor visit reports, which have been outstanding. What Governors have written and what they have said is really positive, and good for staff to read.

There have been lots of Link visits throughout the year and lots of staff have attended Governor meetings, who have been very knowledgeable, which has helped Governors have a greater understanding.

The Chair added Governors and staff are both outstanding – well done.

Signed by Chair:



Date: 19th September 20

The Head said a huge thank you to Governors and the SLT for all their efforts during the year – it has been a joint cause and another successful year.

Ofsted came in and told us we are Outstanding, but this is done now and we will continue to do our best for our young people as a family and a community.

The Head explained that the SLT would now outline their highlights of the year and what they are most proud of. Those members of SLT who were not present at the meeting had recorded their highlights, which were presented to Governors.

The Head outlined the things he is most proud of:

The children and how they feel about Cantell School.

The Head said that one of the questions that he asks students is whether they are proud to be part of Cantell and in the past they weren't able to give a clear answer, which was disappointing given the vast range of clubs, trips and visits on offer and the opportunities to gain knowledge and develop skills. The Head said that we want to create memories and experiences for a life time, and to prepare students for the next steps in their long journeys, which they weren't doing in the past, but by changing the culture and getting the right people on board, they could and have done this. It is not just about Ofsted, and the Head said he realised on the first day of Ofsted that the children now know what they can do at Cantell, which is really important. The children were pleased to come to Cantell pre-pandemic, but it is clear that since Ofsted, they are really proud.

The staff and students.

The Head said that he spends a lot of time praising staff and students, and rewarding them in different ways. He does this the least with SLT, who start at 7.30 a.m., with a briefing, where they look at behaviour and attendance from the previous day and they also carry out QA at this time. This is all incredible, and he is blown away by the wealth of knowledge and information and what the SLT do with it.

The Head said that their day starts at 7.30 a.m. and finishes late and they carry out duties at break and lunch times and barely pause during the day, and they are visible throughout the school day. The Head added that you can see from Ian's presentation, that he is proud of attendance, which is at 92.3% and the rest of the SLT know the attendance for their year groups and they are able to find any information that they need. The Head added that staff and students' relationships are also a strength.

The Head informed Governors that the SLT are simply incredible and the school wouldn't run as it does without them. The Head thanked the SLT for all efforts this year, it is right to say that you are an incredible team, who work very hard, so thank you from our young people – you are incredible.

Claire Herridge responded that SLT want to say thank you to the Head, because yes, you have thanked us, but they are only as good as they are because of his leadership.

The Head thanked Governors, adding that their visit reports are incredible and staff are pleased to be able to share their views with Governors, which is important. The Head added that they need to get more staff to come to Governor meetings to show you what they do.

Signed by Chair:



Date: 19th September 20

The Vice Chair said that the Chair of Governors brought process in for link visits and has pushed the process, which was the right thing to do – so thank you for what you do as Chair and for keeping Governors in check. Action

The Chair said that she forgot to mention the fantastic Summer Concert, which was superb and the students were all really talented and professional. You couldn't help but marvel at the students and the music was very different, which says a lot about the school.

The Chair said that she has thanked the staff involved by email, but all the staff and students delivered a marvel.

A Governor commented that some of the students involved might want to carry on the journey and would be good – it's a lot about confidence as well as talent, which is really powerful. The Chair responded that it's the staff that work with them that give students the confidence to stand in front of a packed audience.

The Head agreed that the level of commitment from staff is amazing. Harriet Phillips spoke about 'Cantell's Got Talent' – the member of staff who organised this was off sick in hospital, has a new baby and went on the NASA trip. The drive and talent of these students is incredible and the staff are happy to give up their time, which is fantastic and amazing.

The Head agreed that it has been a wonderful year and she is proud of the school, staff, students and Governors. Well-done – hope you have a good rest and come back renewed.

63/24 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

64/24 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th September 2024, 5.30 p.m. in the CTC.

That concluded the business of the meeting. The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

Page No	Minute Number	Item	By Whom	By When
5.	52/24	Clerk to clarify section of the Charging & Remissions Policy with the SBM and email out to Governors for review/approval.	Clerk	As soon as possible
5.	53/24	Clerk to forward Complaint's policy to Governors for review/approval once changes have been agreed with SBM.	Clerk	As soon as possible
6.	55/24 c)	Members of staff for Boys Mentoring, Enrichment and Personal Development to be invited to present to Governors in the new academic year.	Clerk	Next Academic year

Ongoing Matters Arising

	04/24	Head to look for a replacement for Finance/Staffing Committee	Head	Asap
3.	51/24	Governors to arrange visits with the Link Faculties	All	When available

Signed by Chair:



Date: 19th September 20