MINUTES

Meeting:	Governing Board	**Date:**	10 July 2024
School:	**Wellacre Technology Academy**		
Venue:	School	**Time:**	5 p.m.
Governance Professional:	**Trust Governor Services** Julie Lawson (Head of Service)	**Clerk:**	Trust GS

PRESENT:
Mr T Fredrickson
Ms L Hepple-Stokes
Mr C Hinchcliffe
Mrs J O'Connor
Ms H Rayson
Mrs J Sharrock (Principal)
Mr A Young (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:
Miss P Bailey (Business Director)
Miss A Evans (Clerk, Trust GS)

1. MEETING MANAGEMENT

1.1 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received for Mrs L Henry, Mr O McGrattan, Cllr S Procter, Mrs M Radhakrishman, Mr S Russell and Mrs J Thirkill.

Resolved:

i) That the apology/apologies for absence for Mrs L Henry, Mr O McGrattan, Cllr S Procter, Mrs M Radhakrishman, Mr S Russell and Mrs J Thirkill be accepted.

ii) That the attendance of Miss P Bailey at this meeting be approved.

1.2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS & UPDATES TO BUSINESS INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest, direct or indirect pecuniary interest by members of the Board in respect of any item on the agenda.

1.3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2024**

Resolved: ***That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024 be approved as a correct record.***

1.4 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

N/A

2. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

2.1 **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Resolved: ***That the Principal's Report be received and noted.***

i) **Strategic Improvement Plan**

The Principal highlighted the summary of the 3 years Strategic Improvement Plan. There has been lots of information from the DfE around attendance nationwide, creating a sense of belonging, adaptive approaches and adjustments for students with SEND, which is what Wellacre have already been working on and therefore will be no major changes in that area.

A subsection within quality education of specific areas for improvement following the Ofsted report, the Curriculum Committee is aware of, and a plan will be shared in September.

ii) **School Improvement Plan**

Works continues with Anne Seneviratne. A productive session with senior & middle leaders took place last week. There will be changes to assessment practices in school.

An external audit and review took place in June for Safeguarding, verbal feedback was positive.

iii) **Collaboration**

The Academy has taken full advantage of the free offer of the NPQ's. 7 staff have completed NPQ's with 2 to complete this year.

It was noted Autism in School programme comes to an end this year. Michelle O'Neill will continue to work with Co-op.

Work continues with the Schools Partnership Programme.

Christine Siddell and Rob Hedge both continue to work with science and English on transition projects.

Trafford have had a joint Primary and Secondary Headteacher's Conference which the Principal attended.

Jason Shiner is doing some interesting work with Pupil Premium leads across Trafford and Manchester, looking at boys' long term systemic issues around the gender gap.

Continuing involvement with BeeWell surveys.

Ben Toogood has now concluded Forest School Training.

iv) **Staffing**

There have been 3 resignations and 5 new appointments for September.

There are vacancies in Maths and English that are being covered by long term supply staff. Adverts for these will go out again with a view to filling these for a January start.

v) **Staff Voice**

Completed in May 2024 and feedback was positive.

vi) **Student Voice**

Lots of positives around belonging, pride and values. Relevance of what is being taught in lessons came up lower and has been fed back to staff. Less positive also was Seneca.

Q: A Governor stated that in Science it is hard sometimes to meet curriculum expectations but also to be relevant. Could it be that sometimes the relevance is lost because the focus is more on curriculum, because there isn't always time to make it relevant?
The Principal informed the Board that the breadth and depth of the curriculum for Science is huge. In some areas they may be going too far and too fast.

There was a discussion around KS3 and putting component parts together.

Q: Do you think that is because KS3 exist in it owns right, rather than being in preparation for KS4?
Yes

Q: Seneca being a new system, on Q10 in the survey, I see value in what I learn in lessons, is that again because it is not being reinforced?
A Governor suggested that if you enjoy a subject you will find the relevance but if you hate a subject, like science, then perhaps not prepared to look at what this means to you.

vii) **Social Media Reports**

Really Positive. Tammy Quinn was commended on her work for the socials.

viii) **Curriculum & Standards Committee**

The Principal advised that the Committee looked at the outcomes.

They have requested to see the Leader of Science at their next meeting. Triple science was discussed at this meeting, and how combined science will be a better option. Students will not lose science hours but the hours that would have used for triple will be used to consolidate strength and outcomes in combined. Only one parent wants to discuss this, but parents have fed back that they completely agree.

Q: What are the boys' opinions?
The boys understand

ix) **Pastoral**

The Pastoral team presented their outcomes, and this report was also included in the previously distributed agenda pack.

Attendance remains above national average. Some issues around PP and SEND gap with attendance, which is reflecting a national trend. Greater Manchester is doing a webinar next week, working with the children's commissioner looking at severe absentees and school refusers.

There was also an update on SEND. There have been 30 requests for referrals this term. Wellacre are taking on 10 EHCP students. 4 are coming from Longford Park.

Q: Are those requests for referrals from parents?
Yes.

x) **Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding update was previously distributed within the Principal's Report.

The Principal highlighted lots of complex work goes on with regard to safeguarding. Training on local concerns took place last September. The school has had 15 local concerns this year, none of which have met the threshold for referral. There is very good record keeping around concerns. Mr P Pemberton will be asked to return to the AGM in September to give any headlines / updates.

Resolved: That Mr Pemberton be asked to attend the AGM in September to present headline performance.

xi) **Student Numbers**

This continues to grow, currently on 684. Projection going forward is shown in the budget. The Principal advised the Governors that they need to be aware that primary schools are not full in reception this year across the Authority and this will effect the school in the future.

Q: Have we received any feedback from primary school since the Ofsted report?
157 in this year which is the same as last year. No one has mentioned it.

xii) **Migration Reports**

There have been 9x move out of area, 8 are in year admissions and been moved by the home office. Number of students on Step Outs at Wellacre. 3 are being home educated. 17 have moved to other schools which is closer to their home. 5 are on exclusion. Wellacre have taken students from other schools also. Directed by the authority to take 2 students that have been permanently excluded from other schools.

xiii) **Teaching CPD**

Stacey had presented her report which was included into the Principal's report that was previously distributed.

2.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolved:

i) That the minutes of the Behaviour, Attitudes, Personal Development Committee meeting held 8 May 2024 be received and noted

ii) That the minutes of the Curriculum & Standards Committee meeting held on 12 June 2024 be received and noted

iii) That the verbal update of Resources Committee be received and noted.

Things to note were regarding land, as the goal posts have moved. Stegta have gone into administration, which is a £40k loss of income for 2023/24.

The Business Director further reported on the Stegta situation.

2.3 LINK GOVERNOR REPORTS

Awaiting Governor Link reports

2.4 MAT UPDATE

The MAT update was distributed within the meeting.

There were 6 responses from leadership at the school, 1 member and 5 Trustees. 3 keys areas of need for school improvement were summarised.

Bright Futures have reached out to the Academy. A discussion around the links with Bright Futures took place.

It was further discussed that perhaps 1 or 2 Governors could be involved in the process but would need further discussion in September.

2.5 **GOVERNOR SKILLS AUDIT**

Resolved: ***That the Governor Skills Audit be received and noted.***

3. COMPLIANCE

3.1 **APPROVAL OF BUDGET PLAN 2024-25**

Resolved: ***That the Budget Plan for 2024-25 be approved.***

From the £40k debt owed by Stegta, a payment plan had already been negotiated and was being paid. It was assumed that £90k+ of income was coming in due to extra space Stegta was going to take. The Business Director talked through the budget on page 38 of the pack. Conservative staff budget, and saving money from lettings is positive. Pg 39 shows in year deficit (88,980). Next year starts to show a surplus.

Cleaning contractors owe £11k. Figures based on current staff.

Discussion around construction yard took place as this is fully equipped and would be too costly to get rid of, possible rent opportunity. Also, high needs funding is a possibility.

3.2 **RISK REGISTER**

Resolved: ***That the Risk Register update be noted.***

3.3 **SCHOOL POLICIES**

Resolved: ***That the following Policies be approved***
i) Data Breach Policy
ii) Data Protection Policy
iii) Estates Regulation Policy
iv) First Aid Policy
v) Health & Safety Policy
vii) Internal Evacuation Policy
viii) Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

3.4 **ANNUAL CYBER SECURITY REPORT**

Resolved: ***That the Annual Cyber Security Report be received and noted***

3.5 **CONSTITUTION REPORT**

Governors were reminded of the terms of office and the requirement to schedule re-appointments and elections as necessary.

Resolved:

i) ***That the Constitution Report (including Governors terms of office) be received and noted***

ii) ***That Mrs L Henry be appointed a Community Governor.***

The Chair to contact Mrs M Radhakrishman if she wishes to stay on as a Governor.

It was also noted that Mr J Whitby should not have an end date, but the Chair will check if he wants to remain a Member.

3.6 **PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Resolved: ***That the calendar be approved with the meetings being online apart from the Governing Board which will be held at the school***

3.7 **NOMINATION FOR CHAIR / VICE CHAIR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25**

Governors were reminded that nominations for Chair and/or Vice Chair can be forwarded to the Clerking Service (clerk@trustgs.co.uk) in advance of the autumn term meeting when Chair & Vice Chair are appointed. Nomination Forms were distributed for submission in advance of the autumn term meeting.

3.8 **OPT IN OR OUT FOR PRINTED COPIES OF AGENDA PACKS**

Governors were reminded they **must** register with Trust GS Clerking Service (via an online form) if they wish to receive printed copies of agenda packs for the academic year 2024-25.

3.9 **NOTICES FROM TRUSTGS (CLERKING SERVICE)**

Resolved:

- ***i)*** ***That the termly Governors' Newsletter –*** *The Clerk's Post (Summer 2024)* ***be received and noted.***
- ***ii)*** ***That the*** *Governor Training Calendar Summer 2024* ***be noted.***
- ***iii)*** ***That the link to*** *Academy Trust Governance Guide* ***(updated 7-March 2024) be received and noted.***

3.10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

N/A

3.11 **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Resolved: ***That the following items be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.***

- ***i)*** ***Safeguarding Update (Mr P Pemberton)***
- ***ii)*** ***Governors being part of the MAT strategy***
- ***iii)*** ***Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair***
- ***iv)*** ***Strategic SIP***

3.12 **ACTION SUMMARY**

Resolved: ***That the following Action arising from the meeting be noted.***

- ***i)*** ***The Chair to contact Mrs M Radhakrishman if she wishes to stay on as a Governor and contact Mr J Whitby to ask if he wants to remain a Member.***

3.13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved: ***That the next meeting of the Governing Board be held at the school on 18 September 2024 at 5 p.m.***

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

Chair of Governing Board ………………………………………

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