

**Minutes of a meeting of an extra-ordinary Governors of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith, held via Teams on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 5.30pm.**

Present

Mrs S Denyer (Clerk)

Dr J Jenkins (CoG)

Mr C Hansford (GbS)

Mr G Miller (P)

Mr N Ruddick (P)

Mr D Marchant

Mrs T Boving-Foster (P) (CoG)

Mr J Ray (CoG)

Mr M Worrall (CoG)

Mrs J Mills (CoG)

SLT present: None

Visitors: None

Governors in attendance: 9

Quorum per article 114 – 5 Governors

(one half of the governors holding office rounded up to the nearest whole number)

GbS – Governor by Statute

MaG – Member appointed Governor

CoG – Co-opted Governor

S – Staff

P- Parent

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2. Move to WLMAT

The Governors discussed a proposal to pause the process of joining the Westlakes Multi-Academy Trust to allow a consultation process to take place with stakeholders. Legal representatives for the school have advised the previous consultation did not meet its legal definition, despite it not being a mandatory process of joining the WLMAT.

Dr Jenkins stated her concern that the decisions and agreements already taken by the board and with WLMAT deliver the best outcome for QEGS, and joining them is now a legal

obligation following the Notice to Improve. Mr Marchant has verbal assurance from the ESFA that a pause to allow this consultation will not risk our legal obligations in the NTI and expects them to provide this in writing within the next day. Mr Marchant has also discussed the new consultation process with WLMAT who have provided support for this. Should the outcome of the consultation allow for reinstatement of joining WLMAT, Mr Marchant confirmed that the resolution passed earlier in the year will not be rescinded.

A discussion took place to review if the pause would have any implications on signing off the accounts at the next full Governors meeting. Mr Marchant confirmed that the delay to agreeing a new repayment plan for the £1.5 million debt has been verbally acknowledged by the ESFA, and he will have the assurance in writing in the next day.

The new terms of the consultation will be agreed upon by the Governors with legal advice being sought. Mr Marchant concluded the new process will give surety of the decisions being taken in line with the Notice to Improve.

**Mr Worrall proposed to pause the process of joining WLMAT and proceed with a new consultation.**

- **Votes in favour: 6**
- **Votes against: 1**
- **Abstentions: 0**

Mr Worrall thanked everyone for attending at short notice.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

The meeting closed at 6.30pm