

**Minutes of a meeting of Governors of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith, held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 5.30pm.**

Present

Mrs S Denyer (Clerk)  
Mr C Hansford (GbS)  
Mr G Miller (P)  
Mrs J Mills

Mr D Marchant  
Mrs T Boving-Foster (P)  
Mr J Ray (CoG)  
Mr M Worrall (CoG) (Chair)

SLT present: Mr R Dawson  
Mrs R Rourke

Visitors: Mr I Thompson, Saint & Co  
(until end of item 4)

Governors in attendance: 7

Quorum per article 114 – 4 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

Apologies for absence were accepted for Mr Ruddick (funeral)

2. Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

There were no declarations of interest in the agenda items.

3. Any changes to the declaration of Business Interests

There were no changes to the declaration of interests.

4. Statutory Accounts

The Statutory Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting, Mr Thompson presented the accounts to the Governing Body, highlighting the following:

- The accounts reflect the £1.5 million ESFA repayment in the current liability and a creditor falling due within one year as a repayment plan is yet to be agreed.
- Note 31 on the final page explains that the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis since it is the academy's intention to be subsumed into a Multi Academy Trust within 12 months, thus will no longer exist as a legal entity. Mr Thompson therefore, is assured that the trustees can sign off the accounts.
- The accounts show cash in bank / equivalents totaling almost £1million and the position (without the £1.5 million liability) has very much improved showing a surplus this year, and also projected for next year.
- The audit report, page 27, highlights the uncertainty of the school as a going concern but apart from this, the report is positive.
- Mr Thompson introduced the management report which has a number of matters reported. Only one has been flagged medium due to no evidence being found of a staff member holding a DBS check. Mr Marchant confirmed the school have this in hand. A number of other low rated items were highlighted such as, the whistleblowing policy is not displayed on the school website and the list of retired governors on the school website should include Mr Buckland. A written commentary from the school is required for each of the items once actioned, and Mr Thompson will expect this to be returned to Saints. The ESFA will review the management report along with commentary to show actions have been completed.

Questions and comments were as follows:

- *Are the accounts unqualified? (JJ)* Mr Thompson confirmed they are
- *Will the DfE allow a delay in the payment plan proposal, a condition of the NTI? (TBF)* Mr Marchant confirmed he had now received written agreement from the DfE to delay the proposal in order to conduct a new consultation.
- *Can you talk us through the adjusting journals schedule? (JJ)* Mr Thompson explained these are changes made to the account by Saints. An adjustment was made for the donation of chairs and monitors to the school. These were not in the accounts and no invoice available therefore the monetary value reflected as £13,970. The bank interest will be recognised this year and the old cheque will be written off this year. Mr Thompson is satisfied as the figures are minor.

**A vote was taken to agree to submit the accounts as per the proposal.**

**Vote for: 6**

**Vote against: 0**

**Abstain: 1**

**The Statutory Accounts will therefore be submitted as per the proposal**

Mr Thompson left the meeting

5. Update in online merger with CLLT (including input from solicitors)

No update provided.

6. Minutes from the Risk and Audit Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
a) ratify decision

Due to the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November not being quorate, a vote was taken to ratify the decisions made at the meeting.

**Mr Worrall proposed to agree to the decisions as noted in the meeting minutes  
Mr Hansford seconded the proposal**

7. Minutes from the Governors meeting held in July 2022

Questions were invited from the previously circulated minutes. There were none.

**The meeting was brought to a close. Mr Worrall has received resignations from all but one of the Governing Body. Mr Ruddick will remain as a parent elected governor. The resignations will take effect from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

**Thanks were given from both Mr Marchant and Mr Worrall to all members of the governing body for their hard work and dedication.**

**Mr Marchant announced a Members Annual General Meeting will take place this evening to vote in a new Governing Body as per the Articles of Association.**

**The meeting closed at 6.15pm.**