



Ruskin Community High School

FULL GOVERNORS BOARD MEETING

7th October 2025 at 4:00pm

Venue – School

MINUTES – PART ONE

Present:	John Rhodes (Chair) Dean Postlethwaite (HT) Emma Szymura (ES) Marion McKenzie (MMc) Peter Storey (PS) Don Higgs (DH) Denise McCumskey (DMc) William Ollier (WO) Peter Thorpe (PT) Natalie Cross Duncan Burrow (DB) Chris Griffin (CG) Margo Veitch (MV)	LA Governor – Chair of Governors Headteacher Co-opted Governor – Deputy Head Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor Co-opted Governor
Apologies:	Debbie Jones (DJ)	Co-opted Governor
In attendance:	Hazel Goodwin (SBM) Natalie Burke (NB) Claire Harrison Sarah Robson (SR) Jo Rankin (JRa) Su Garbutt (Clerk)	School Business Manager Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher Senior Governance Officer

Staff Presentation:

AGENDA ITEM 1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
Discussion:	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Governors received and accepted apologies from DJ.

AGENDA ITEM 2	ELECTION OF CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
Decision:	Governors elected John Rhodes as Chair of Governors for a period of one year, or until the first FGB of the Autumn 2026 term.



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AGENDA ITEM 3	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
Decision:	Governors elected William Ollier as Vice Chair of Governors for a period of one year, or until the first FGB of the Autumn 2026 term.

AGENDA ITEM 4	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, (PECUNIARY OR OTHERWISE)
Discussion:	<p>a) The Headteacher informed the meeting that he was a HT representative on the LA Schools Forum.</p> <p>b) Governors were reminded to complete the annual declaration form on Governor Hub for the 2025/26 academic year.</p> <p>c) Governors noted the school was responsible for updating the register of business interests on the school website and Get Information About Schools.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 5	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Discussion:	There were no items of any other business for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 6	MEMBERSHIP
Discussion:	<p>a) There were no changes to membership to be reported.</p> <p>b) Governors confirmed the current vacancies in accordance with the constitution: 1 x Co-opted Governor 1 x Parent Governor</p> <p>The parent election was currently taking place with 1 application received.</p> <p>c) The following terms of office were due to expire during the Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026 terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-opted Governor – Bill Ollier (04.12.25) • Co-opted Governor – Chris Griffin (06.03.26) • Co-opted Governor – Denise McCumskey (06.03.26) • Co-opted Governor – Margo Veitch (06.03.26) • Co-opted Governor – Debbie Jones (30.03.26)
Decision	<p>Governors agreed to re-appoint BO, CG, DMc and MV for a further 4 year term of office once their current term expired.</p> <p>Governors agreed to review DJ's membership in the 2026 spring term once the Headteacher had contacted Mrs Jones.</p>



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Action:	Clerk to update Governor Hub with new terms of office. HT to contact DJ regarding her membership of the board.
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AGENDA ITEM 7	APPROVAL OF THE PART 1 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Discussion:	Governors approved the minutes from the meeting on 02.07.25 as a correct record and the signed by the Chair. The school retained the signed copy of the minutes.
Decision:	Governors resolved to approve the minutes of the above meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8	MATTERS ARISING
Discussion:	<p>Governors reviewed the Action Log, and noted the following:</p> <p><u>Decarbonisation</u> JR visited during the summer and discussed timelines. A meeting had been held two weeks ago with the Headteacher, SBM, JR and the contractors. The contractors seemed positive the work would be completed by February half term and they would work around the school timetable. Governors noted the old heating system would remain in place as a backup for 12 months after completion.</p> <p><i>Governor question: Are we confident this new system is adequate to heat the school efficiently?</i> <i>Response: Yes, and there are measures which can be put in place afterwards to boost the system to make the heat transfer more efficiently. The old system will remain in place and will then be removed as part of the original contract.</i></p> <p><i>Governor question: Leaving the old system in, do we still have to the pay standing charge?</i> <i>Response: Yes, although it is worth the additional expense to ensure we have the backup system available.</i></p> <p><u>SDP</u> The SDP was in draft and would be brought to the December FGB.</p> <p><u>Governor Training</u> Cyber Security: All governors were reminded to complete this as it was a requirement for the school insurance policies. Data Protection: All governors to complete</p>



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	<p><u>Increase in PAN</u></p> <p>The Headteacher had spoken to Fiona Burke-Jackson and Sally Ashworth regarding the increase in PAN for the school. Both were loosely in agreement that the school would be allowed to take pupils above the PAN</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 9	CHAIR'S ACTION
Discussion:	The Chair reported he had signed a document regarding a personnel issue during the summer break.

AGENDA ITEM 10	COMMITTEES AND NOMINATED GOVERNORS
Decision:	<p>a) Governors agreed committee membership as:</p> <p><u>Leadership, Management and Environment Committee</u></p> <p>Natalie Burke Duncan Burrow Su Garbutt (Clerk) Hazel Goodwin Claire Harrison Donald Higgs Debbie Jones Denise McCumskey William Ollier Dean Postlethwaite John Rhodes (Chair) Sarah Robson Peter Storey Emma Szymura Peter Thorpe Margo Veitch</p> <p><u>Pay Committee CONFIDENTIAL</u></p> <p>Duncan Burrow (Chair) Su Garbutt (Clerk) Hazel Goodwin Dean Postlethwaite John Rhodes Peter Thorpe Margo Veitch</p>



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Student Development and Welfare Committee

Natalie Burke
 Su Garbutt (Clerk)
 Chris Griffin
 Claire Harrison
 Donald Higgs (Chair)
 Marion McKenzie
 William Ollier
 Dean Postlethwaite
 Sarah Robson
 Peter Storey
 Emma Szymura
 Peter Thorpe
 Margo Veitch

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Committee

Natalie Burke
 Duncan Burrow
 Natalie Cross
 Su Garbutt (Clerk)
 Chris Griffin (Chair)
 Claire Harrison
 Donald Higgs
 William Ollier
 Dean Postlethwaite
 Sarah Robson
 Peter Storey
 Emma Szymura
 Margo Veitch

b) Governors **agreed** the 2025/26 terms of reference for the following committees:

- Pupil Exclusions Committee
- Complaints Committee
- Staff Grievance
- Appeals Committee
- Pay Committee

c) Governors **confirmed** the panel of Governors appointed to carry out the Headteacher's Performance Review and to confirm the appointment of the external advisor as:

- Donald Higgs
- William Ollier
- Peter Storey
- Margo Veitch



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	<p>Governors noted the quorum for the committee is 3, 2 governors plus the external advisor. The advisor was confirmed as Seve Dools.</p> <p>d) Governors confirmed the following Link Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance – Peter Thorpe • Careers – William Ollier • Disadvantaged pupils – William Ollier • Health and Safety – Peter Thorpe • Safeguarding – Donald Higgs • SEND – Margo Veitch, Donald Higgs • Sustainability – William Ollier • Training – John Rhodes • Wellbeing – Marion McKenzie <p>Governors felt that Inclusion was part of the Disadvantaged and SEND link governor work and therefore a separate Inclusion link governor role was not required.</p> <p>e) Governors noted the link governor monitoring schedule for 2025-2026 would be agreed with Sarah Robson</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 11	GOVERNORS CODE OF CONDUCT
Discussion:	The NGA Code of Conduct for 2025/26 had been uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting for all governors to view.
Decision:	Governors approved the Code of Conduct for 2025/26 and all governors present signed the paper copy circulated at the meeting. The school kept the signed copy for their records.

AGENDA ITEM 12	GOVERNOR STATEMENT
Discussion:	Governors were informed the Governance Statement was currently in draft and would be brought to the next FGB for approval.
Action:	Clerk to add to FGB agenda.



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AGENDA ITEM 13	PUPIL PERFORMANCE
<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>Overview of 2025 GCSE Results</p> <p>ES acknowledged that this year's results were not as strong as previous years, which was anticipated and had previously been reported to the Board. However, results had been in line with predictions in most subjects. In most areas, the school was confident there was capacity to improve pupil performance and results.</p> <p>The 2025 cohort was particularly challenging: 139 students were on roll (originally 140; one withdrawn mid-exams). 5 EAL students removed from published data due to late arrival (post-Year 9). 9 students did not attend school or sit exams due to medical, refusal, or alternative provision. 125 students included in final results.</p> <p>Key Performance Data</p> <p>English and Maths Combined showed a significant dip compared to previous years. English: 72% achieved expected standards (excluding non-attendeess). Highest 9–7 scores since GCSEs began. Maths: 52% achieved grades 9–4. Governors noted these results aligned with predictions made at the end of Year 10. There had been a slight improvement in top set performance under new Head of Maths. EBacc: 11% achieved EBacc. 37% entered (national average). Attainment 8: Results closely matched predictions.</p> <p>Vulnerable Groups and Gaps</p> <p>Gender Gap: Boys underperformed by nearly a grade in every subject. Pupil Premium (PP): 10-point gap, equating to a grade difference. SEND: SEND K students performed closer to national average than non-SEND. EAL: Gaps remained small but may mask underperformance.</p> <p>While results were below expectations, the leadership team was confident in the strategies implemented.</p> <p>Governors reviewed individual departments, and these were reported under Part 1 of the agenda. Governors were pleased to note that departments were being closely monitored, and interventions were targeted.</p>
AGENDA ITEM 14	GOVERNOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>The Chair of Governors noted that there were lots of courses on offer from Cheshire East and they these were very comprehensive.</p>



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	<p>The Governor conference would take place on 17th October and governors were encouraged to attend. The theme would be inclusion.</p> <p>Attendance: Governors were encouraged to attend the CE training on attendance. PT informed the board he had signed up to attend.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 15	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Discussion:	There were no items of any other business for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 16	MEETING DATES FOR 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR
Discussion:	<p>The meeting schedule had been agreed as:</p> <p>Autumn LME – 18.11.25 – 4.00pm SDW/TLA – 19.11.25 - 3.15pm/4.15pm FGB – 03.12.25 - 4:00pm</p> <p>Spring LME – 10.03.26 - 4:00pm SDW/TLA – 11.03.26- 3.15pm/4.15pm FGB – 25.03.26 - 4:00pm</p> <p>Summer LME – 16.06.26 - 4:00pm SDW/TLA - 17.06.26- 3.15pm/4.15pm FGB – 01.07.26 - 4:00pm</p>

The Part 1 meeting ended at 5.34 pm

The meeting moved to the Part 2.

Chair.....

Date.....