

Liaison Governors' meeting Tuesday 20th February 2007

Governing bodies represented (as per the attendance register):-

Caroline Adams (Elburton Primary School)
Bernice Ambrose (Plymbridge Nursery School and Children's Centre)
Heather Binley (Goosewell Primary School)
Ursula Brown (Ridgeway School)
Margaret Charlick (Boringdon Primary School)
Richard Clarke (Montpelier Primary School)
Karen Cook (Austin Farm Community Primary School)
Janet Cross (Mount Tamar)
Gordon Cryer (Stoke Damerel CC)
Karoline De-Lar (The Learning Campus)
Andrew Field (Eggbuckland Vale Primary School)
Pat Gould (Highfield Community School)
William Gray (Bull Point Community School)
Sarah Hitchcox (Hyde Park Infant School)
Peter May (Boringdon Primary School)
Denise McKintosh (Notre Dame Roman Catholic School)
Steve Medlin (Chaucer Primary School)
Belinda O'Hara (The Cathedral School of St Mary)
Simon Pope (St Paul's RC Primary School)
Karen Russell (Pomphlett Primary School)
Paul Russell (Coombe Dean)
Keith Scott (Hyde Park Infant School, Salisbury Road Junior School,
St Budeaux Foundation C/E Junior School)
Gill Webb (Hyde Park Junior School)
Jan West (Stuart Road Primary School, Victoria Road Primary School)

Also present Karen Powell– Governor Development Officer
Louise Brailey – Administrative Assistant, Governor Development Team

Apologies:

Sr Edith Brash S.N.D. (Notre Dame Roman Catholic School)
Linda Cook (Laira Green Primary School)
Nick Evans (Woodford Infant School)
Louise Martin (Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School)
Sonia Oates (Eggbuckland CC)
Brian Roberts (The Learning Campus)
Ashima Sawhney (St Edwards C/E Primary School)
Peter Wickett (Chaucer Primary School)
Janet Wise (Plympton St Maurice Primary School)
Josie Debnam (Widey Court Primary School)
Patricia Keene (St Joseph's Catholic Primary School)
Marie Beaven-Smith (Langley Community Junior School)

48. Welcome

Karen Powell welcomed Liaison Governors to the meeting. She explained that this meeting was being held separately to the Chairs' Forum for the first time. This would allow both groups to focus on what seemed an ever-increasing agenda without the need to curtail a meeting, or start a meeting late.

49. Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd November 2006

Agreed as a correct record. Brian Gould would not be attending the next Chairs' Forum and this presentation would be held over until June.

50. Analysis of Autumn and Spring terms' training

Karen Powell advised that just two courses had been cancelled in the months since the last Liaison meeting – The Role of the Numeracy Governor and The Role of the Race Equality Governor. The Race Equality Governor course was linked to the timing but there was surprise that the Numeracy course had not been successful. The Role of Literacy Governor was proving more popular with just 8 spaces remaining. Governors were asked to ring Louise Brailey on 307483 if they would like to secure one of the remaining places.

The Recharging Governors was run but on low numbers – those attending considered it very beneficial and recommended that other governors serving over 10 years should attend.

Liaison Governors reviewed the attendance data and evaluations from recent courses. In discussion the following points were made:-

The courses which had been very successful included the Role of the Parent Governor, Raise Online (Karen Powell gave apologies that this course was moved at late notice to a small room due to the arrival at Windsor House of the Inspectors), The SEF, Budget Monitoring and FMSIS (Financial Management Standard in Schools).

The group then reviewed the individual feedback sheets from courses.

Karen Powell confirmed that these sheets help with planning and that all comments are monitored and incorporated wherever possible. Recently we were pleased to hear from Terri Beer- new governor – that she would like expenses to be raised as a part of the Induction Day – this will prove interesting to many new governors and will be included in future courses now as standard.

The team had decided to increase the number of Clerks' Update sessions by running an additional afternoon course – this had proved successful – particularly to clerks who work in school. The Governors' Induction Day is also to be offered as two evening sessions of 2.5 hours each. Karen

Powell noted the team's only concern was that some governors might only be able to complete one half of the course and as a 3 module course governors would only really gain by seeing the 'full picture'.

51. Terms 5 and 6 courses

Bookings for the summer terms 5 and 6 were reported as good. The Liaison Governors gave their full support to the production of a further Governors' Professional handbook – it was felt that the availability of courses over a full academic year was beneficial.

52. Governors' Wavelength

Copies of the Wavelength magazine were circulated following the governors consideration of the magazine at the last meeting. The revised magazine received widespread approval and the following points were made:-

- i) The colour of the magazine should remain green – this gives it an identity which will be easily recognised
- ii) The range of articles was considered to be greatly improved
- iii) The greater use of websites for follow up information was appreciated
- iv) The information board on the back cover was a useful addition

Karen Powell asked governors to remind their governing bodies that the Wavelength is their magazine – any articles are welcomed.

53. Governors' Organiser

The Governors' Organiser is valued by many governors who regularly apply for a copy. It was agreed that this should continue to be produced. A filofax style has been considered but the cost of the small size is currently prohibitive.

54. Latest news...

Karen Powell gave a brief presentation, based on the clerks' update course which gave a flavour of the current initiatives affecting governors. (Please see PowerPoint presentation handout).

Two large scale changes are to be introduced. Nationally the introduction of FMSIS (Financial Management Standards in Schools) will affect all schools within three years and locally the introduction of enhanced CRB checks from 1 April for all new and reappointed governors and a gradual phase in of checks for all other governors before Autumn 2008 will see the city's commitment to ensuring that everyone in the education service shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe.

NGA Training – Governors were shown the pack being publicised by the National Governors' Association at a cost of £9.50 plus VAT to governors – 'First Certificate in Governance'. There was concern that this course is light in information and to be marked a further £27.25 plus VAT is payable. The Governor Development Team have a pack available should anyone wish to view it before purchasing.

Information on the Bullying Charter, Sustainable Schools and School Emergency Planning was also discussed.

55. Date of Next Liaison Governor Meeting

Thursday 7th June 2007 6.30pm to 8.00pm

In closing, Karen Powell thanked governors for attending the meeting – their views were extremely helpful in the process of developing the teams' work.