

Board of Governors meeting

04 Minutes 24 June 2011
1.30 -4.00pm



Present Ann Addison (AA); Chris Aylmer (CA); William Braid; Martin Bradley (MB); Andrew Collinson (AC); Stephen Cox (SC); Clarence Harvey (CH); Lawrence Keen (LK); Carol Kirk (CK); Trevor Mepham (TM); Sylvie Sklan (SS); Jon Syed (JS)

Clerk: Kate Robertson

APOLOGIES – Richard Temple; Nick Deacon

1. Governors

Resignation: Cllr Jo Fishley. General Committee to investigate appointment of new LA governor

Appointments: New governors, Stephen Cox, co-opted as a Health and Safety governor, and Chris Aylmer, co-opted as a finance governor, were warmly welcomed.

2. Minutes from last BGM: approved and signed off

3. Actions from last BGM: All complete except: safeguarding training; volunteer policy; circulation of performance review objectives. Deferred: Action to explore sharing with other schools

4. Correspondence

- i. Resignation letter (15.04) from Cllr Jo Fishley; her acknowledgement of our letters.
- ii. YPLA Final Annual Funding letter (30.03) re recurrent grant for 2011/12
- iii. YPLA letter (14.06.11) re: Devolved Formula Capital Grant for 2011-12.(followed by email (16.06.11) clarifying SEN rate for DFC applies only to pupils attending designated Special Schools.
- iv. Letter from NUT (14.06.11) re strike action ballot about pensions.
- v. YPLA letter (22 .06.11) re financial return (all forwarded to Finance Committee)

5. Capital programme (report circulated prior to meeting)

CPC to provide Board with list of issues with building programme. Letter being written by Academy to DfE to outline concerns. Time loss on Church Farm has huge logistic implications for summer moving.

6. Premises (report circulated prior to meeting)

SAH has withdrawn the Premises License application. **Recommended:** use temporary licence arrangements in the interim prior and to discuss the license issue with the Local Community Forum.

SC reported that he found that SAH's H & S arrangements were in order and that he will revise wording of H&S policies to make them more user friendly. CK/SC are working on strategic fire plan.

7. Principal's report (circulated prior to meeting)

7.01 OFSTED's judgment that there is a lack of consistency in teaching and behaviour corresponds with our view. **AGREED:** A whole school approach to behaviour required for staff, parents and children. There are some issues arising from the OFSTED inspection, including:

- a) professional conduct of one of the inspectors. **AGREED:** to support Trevor's written complaint to Ofsted
- b) limitations of the framework's capacity to judge 'progress' in a Steiner school

- c) inaccuracy of conclusions that rely on RAISE-on-line and other statistical data when cohorts are so small
 - d) how the KG meet the descriptors so accurately
 - e) Acknowledgement of 'achievement' where there is no recognised qualification
- TM/management to analyse /itemise key issues. Governors email input welcomed to be presented to GCM 8 July.

7.02 Staff

- a) New appointments - Eurythmy teacher appointed; interviews for other post ongoing. Gardening post and 1/2 class implications discussed.
- b) Governors sent their heartfelt best wishes to [REDACTED] who has been undergoing medical treatment.

7.03 Concerns - Parent governors indicated that a ongoing concern regarding lunchtimes had not been resolved.

8. Finance (report circulated prior to meeting)

8.01 **APPROVED:** 2011/12 GAG Budget.

8.02 **APPROVED:** chair of finance and CA to sign off 2011/12 overall budget including start-up fund budget, subject to clarification at next GCM as to which budget is being referred.

8.03 The introduction of Parental Contributions was discussed. Finance Comm to write article re budget cuts for FF.

9. Personnel (report circulated prior to meeting)

Discussion ongoing regarding changes of hours for some staff members

10. Teaching & Learning (report circulated prior to meeting)

10.01 The Board congratulated the KG team for their outstanding practice confirmed by Ofsted. Discussion: how can these skills/practice be transferred to Main School.

10.02 Reported: Focus on learning and progress is a priority for this committee.

10.03 Reported: Admissions decisions

11. General Committee

Reported: Communications has been identified as a priority. GCM to discuss setting up/ membership of Communications Working Group.

12. AOB

- i AIMs and OBJECTIVES, as amended, to be circulated
- ii TLC to look at rewording C/D
- iii TM will provide synopsis for next board.
- iv AC brought to consciousness to remember the positives at meetings

13. Dates Next Board 23/09/11

Meeting ended 16.42

	ACTION	By whom	when
1	Discuss appointment of new LA governor	General	Next meeting
2	List outstanding issues with building programme	AC	Next meeting
3	Call Local Community Forum meeting	CK	Before end term
4	Draw list of key problems with new Ofsted framework	TM	GCM 8 /07/11
5	Clarify which budget is to be signed off by Finance Comm	CA	GCM on 8.06.11
6	Progress setting up of a Communications Working Group	General	Next meeting
7	Write article re budget cuts for FF	Finance	Next issue
8	Circulate amended 'Aims and Objectives'	JS	a.s.a.p.
	Rewording of aims and objectives (C and D)	Teaching&Learning	Next T&L Comm
	Synopsis of how schools meets first objectives	TM	Next Board