

BEDFORDSHIRE LEA

QUEENS PARK LOWER SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body of Queens Park Lower School held on 9th April 2008 at School

Action

1. PRESENT

Mr M Awan	Parent Governor
Mr F Birkett	Community Governor (Chair)
Mrs S Cole	Local Authority Governor
Mrs C Friend	Parent Governor
Mr S Le Page	Community Governor
Mrs A McCormick	Staff Governor (Headteacher)
Mr T Rahman	Parent Governor
Mrs J Reeves	Community Governor
Mrs V Tatum	Associate Governor
Mrs L Webb	Staff Governor

In Attendance Mrs A Thomas (Clerk to Governors)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND WELCOME

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Colling and Mr Stuglik.

Mr Awan was welcomed to his first meeting of the Governing Body and all present introduced themselves to him and noted that he would be having his induction tour of the School with the Chair in the near future.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Birkett declared that he had expressed an interest in the position of Trust Development Co-ordinator.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

All present noted the minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held on 27th February 2008, copies of which had been sent to all Governors, and agreed that they should be signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Office Manager

In connection with Minute 6b) Governors were pleased to hear that the new Office Manager had started work and had been taken through an induction programme by Mr Wing from Partnership Education who had been temporarily covering the vacancy.

b) Social Deprivation Funding

In connection with Minute 6d) it was noted that the Headteacher was liaising with other local Headteachers to challenge the formula on which this funding was based

Action

HT

c) Annual Questionnaire for Parents

In connection with Minute 6e) it was noted that the Headteacher had now completed the analysis of these and would email the results to Governors. Overall the results were positive though one issue highlighted was the perception of a small amount of bullying.

d) Governors' Strategy Day

In connection with Minute 8 the Chair reminded Governors that their Strategy Day would be held at the Neighbourhood Centre on 27th June.

All Govs

e) Governor Training

In connection with Minute 12b) it was noted that Mr Le Page had attended a course regarding understanding performance data; he would be sending an evaluation of this to the Headteacher.

Mr Le Page

Mrs Friend reported that she would prepare a chart for Governor training as in 2007/08 and hoped that all Governors would take part in at least one training session. She had also recorded onto DVDs some training programmes for Governors from Teachers' TV. Governors felt that this would be a very useful resource and asked Mrs Friend to send them a list of titles so that they could see which could be useful individually and which could be the basis for group training.

Mrs Friend

f) Governor Visits

In connection with Minute 12a) Mrs Reeves reported that she had made a visit to the School during Science week and had also made a visit regarding Child Protection and Looked After Children.

g) Governor Mark

In connection with Minute 13c) it was noted that the sub-group had worked hard on the impact statements and evidence matrix for the Governor Mark; the Headteacher and Clerk would now liaise regarding specific evidence items. It was anticipated that the School's portfolio would be submitted during the autumn term.

HT Clerk

6. CHANGES TO TIMING OF WESTFIELD'S SCHOOL DAY

The Headteacher reported that she had received a letter from the Headteacher of Westfield Middle School explaining the reasons why they had decided to change the timing of their school day. They intended to begin at 8.20 a.m. and then finish at 3.00 p.m.

Governors expressed some concerns, particularly regarding those Westfield Middle School pupils who picked up their younger siblings from Queens Park Lower School and would now have to wait for 20 minutes. Governors asked the Headteacher to talk to the Headteacher of Westfield School to ensure that any review of timings still maximised the health and safety of all the children in the Queens Park Community.

HT

7. TRUST STATUS

Governors noted a document, copies of which were tabled by Mr Birkett, which detailed the aims of trust schools and the process by which a school could become a member of a trust. Mr Birkett took Governors through this document and, in response to questions the following additional points were made;

- a) Whilst schools in a trust were still under the control of the Local Authority they had a great deal more independence.
- b) Whilst a trust of 23 ex-Bedford Learning Community Schools was impractical, trusts could liaise and work with one another.
- c) The current possible partners who had been discussed by the Trust Development Board were Amazon, Bedford College and the University of Bedfordshire. The Trust Development Board was exploring these options at the moment.
- d) Trustees managed a trust and ensured that the objectives of the trust were followed.
- e) Bearing in mind the current two-tier/three tier debate Governors noted that Bedford/Kempston schools who would be closing would be notified by Christmas 2008, this would be before any trust would be in operation.

Governors discussed the concept of trust status in detail and made the following points;

- i) Governors felt that it was vital to ensure that the objectives of a trust were appropriate for Queens Park School before negotiations were finalised.
- ii) The School would wish the partners of any trust they were in to be appropriate to the Queens Park community.
- iii) Governors wished to consider this matter at their leisure. They asked for the matter of trust status to be placed on the agenda for their next full Governors' meeting; a decision on whether to go further into Trust Status would be made then.

8. LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE

All present noted that the next meeting of the Committee would now be held on 5th June 2008 from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Governors noted that the next meeting of the Governing Body would be held on 20th May 2008.

**Clerk
All
Govs**

**All
L&T
Comm**

**All
Govs**