



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2001, AT THE COACH HOUSE, GREEN PARK, ASTON CLINTON, COMMENCING AT 2.35 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Schools Group

Mrs P McNeish, Mr R Priest and Mrs J Wainwright.

Buckinghamshire County Council

Mr B Allen, Mrs M A M Aston, Mrs M P Clayton, and Mrs E M Lay.

Oxford Diocesan Board of Education

Mr J A Loarridge

Northampton RC Schools Commission

Mr B O'Byrne

Officers Present

Ms J Hall - Committee Administrator

Mr P Holmes – Education Officer (Capital Programme)

Mr R Popat – Senior Solicitor Education

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr J Loarridge be elected Chairman of the School Organisation Committee for the ensuing year.

MR J LOARRIDGE IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Susan Jones, Peter Scott, David Ayres

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2001, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

With regard to item 1 of the minutes, “wide spectrum” schools, it was noted that these special schools are multi-purpose schools catering for all aspects of SEN. Len Brazier and Peter Scott had been invited to the next meeting.

In relation to item 3, it was noted that the LSC had appointed Susan Jones as their representative on this Committee.

The Chairman raised the issues of small agendas; it was agreed, that although this was a statutory committee, that statutorily it only had to meet once a year, therefore Members agreed to cancel meetings if there was insufficient business to discuss.

2 DETERMINATION OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2001-2006

The Committee received the report of the Chief Education Officer on the Draft Organisation Plan 2001-2006 which was published in May 2001 for a two month consultation period. It was noted that responses resulting from the consultation had been included where appropriate, together with other minor changes.

The Officer reported that comments in general had been positive and minor changes included the inclusion of the Education Business Partnership. It was also reported that two schools had achieved Beacon status since the publication of the draft document and this had also been included. The Committee commented positively on the Plan making the following comments:

- Page 6 – Members agreed that “grey” figures giving a complete picture be made available. It was agreed that an addendum be produced.

- Page 16 – Pre-School Provision. Members felt the freephone number of the Children’s Information Service should be included.
- Page 18, Paragraph 6.10.12 – Inclusion for Pupils with Special Needs. Minor word changes to reflect work had been carried out.
- Page 18, Paragraph 6.10.17 – Class Sizes. Re-wording of the sentence.
- Page 29 – Remove Hatters Lane from the draft and replace it with the new school, Highcrest School.

The Committee agreed the Plan. Officers would provide replacement pages for any changes.

RESOLVED

That the final draft of the School Organisation Plan 2001-2006 be agreed.

3 THE WAY AHEAD: CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

The Committee received and noted the report from David Ayres, Head of School Organisation which outlined proposals in the Government White Paper “Schools Achieving Success” relating to the creation of a diverse range of partners and providers. The report drew Members attention to proposals in Chapter 5 of the White Paper, and an extract from the Church of England press release on Church Schools Review Group, on proposals to shape the future of its schools.

Members recognised the concerns and problems this could create.

The report was noted.

4 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SCHOOLS GROUP

The Committee received and noted the report of the Legal Services Manager, which updated Members on the progress to date of filling vacancies on the Schools Group.

It was reported that a fourth vacancy had occurred following the resignation of Mrs Bray in the summer.

Schools had been contacted inviting nominations to become a representative on the Schools Group, seven had been received from community primary schools and four from special schools. No nominations had been received from voluntary or foundation schools.

During discussion Members felt that SOC should be promoted with Governors and included in governor training. In reply it was reported that a flyer and

précis of SOC had been included in the letter, a copy of which went to governors, requesting nominations.

The report was noted.

5 SPEAKING PROTOCOL

The Committee received the report of the Chief Education Officer which updated the Committee on the progress in developing the Speaking Protocol leaflet.

The report was discussed.

RESOLVED

That the format and wording of the Speaking Protocol leaflet be agreed with the following amendments:

- a that the Buckinghamshire County Council logo be removed from the front page;**
- b that reference to Bucks LEA be changed to Buckinghamshire County Council.**

CHAIRMAN