

## **WALSALL EDUCATION BOARD**

**Tuesday 8 March 2005 at 4.30 pm**

Three Crowns Special School, Skip Lane, Walsall, WS5 3NB

### **Present**

Sir G. Hampton (Independent Chairman)  
Mr. A. Butterworth  
Mr. D. J. Jones  
Mr. S. Flynn  
Mr. D. Drewe  
Ms. H. Lomas  
Dr. J. Mathias

### **In attendance**

Mr. D. McNulty – Executive Director  
Ms. E. Simpson – Education Walsall  
Mr. T. German – Education Walsall  
Mr. T. Stainer – Education Walsall  
Mrs. C. Merger - Education Walsall

### **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs E. E. Pitt, H. Withnall and E. Hughes, Messrs C. Ball, J. Williams, M. Lee, M. Quinn, Ms. J. Antill and Ms. J. Cosgrove.

### **Presentation from the head teacher**

The Chairman welcomed members to Three Crowns School, and Ms. Rita McRoberts, Acting Head Teacher gave a brief presentation on activities within the school since opening in 1970. Three Crowns was designated as a school for delicate and physically handicapped pupils and designed to take 135 pupils between the ages of 3 and 16 years of age. There were currently 40 pupils on roll, 12 of whom were between the ages of 4 and 11 years. A number of pupils were on inclusion programmes into their local mainstream schools in line with the policy of Three Crowns school. From the start of the summer term the school will have 37 pupils whose ages range from 4 – 18 and abilities ranging from P4 to level 4.

Ms. McRoberts referred to the strengths of the school in supporting and developing its pupils as well as its involvement in outreach services to support pupils in

mainstream schools and advise teachers working with those individual pupils in order to provide the expertise to build on their capacity. The school had a committed staff with a wealth of experience and there was a future for quite a number of the staff if and when changes to the school occurred. Outreach provision had, to date, proved successful with mainstream schools meeting the needs of SEN pupils without input from Three Crowns. She confirmed that inclusion was a right and not a privilege.

The Board thanked Ms. McRoberts, Acting Head Teacher, her staff and Education Walsall for their work on behalf of the young people.

### **Notes of meeting held on 8 February 2005**

The notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2005, were submitted:-

(see annexed)

### **e-mentoring**

The Board was advised that the Education Business Partnership had recommended that Foxfire be installed to protect pupils. A meeting of the Partnership had been arranged to feed back to Serco employees and Serco had given an undertaking to encourage all their employees to become e-mentors, this amounted to some 40,000 people world wide. The Education Business Partnership had agreed to co-ordinate the system and would provide a target list of pupils to enable the matching exercise to take place.

### **Future meetings**

Mr. Drewe referred to the need for a programme of venues to be provided to host future meetings of the Board.

### **Regeneration in Walsall**

The Chairman advised that the proposals from the college had been submitted and a regeneration programme for Walsall had commenced. The Board looked forward to receiving information on the various projects in the near future.

### **Representation on Walsall Education Board**

Mr. Flynn referred to the work load of head teachers and requested that the Board examine its purpose and give consideration to the frequency of meetings.

It was agreed that the Board would give consideration to the frequency of the meetings at the away day on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2005.

The Board **AGREED** the notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2005, subject to the following amendments:-

Page 2 at the end of paragraph 1, insert "That the Clerk write to the head teacher of Bloxwich CE JMI School congratulating him on the quality of the presentation made to the Board".

Page 3 the first paragraph should read "The University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus is also being redeveloped. The new sports facilities had been completed and it was envisaged that the student village would be completed by Summer 2005. The School of Education rebuild was "out to tender" and work was being undertaken as to the detailed planning. A group was meeting in March, 2005, which would include Tony Stainer and Diana Woods to progress this further."

Penultimate paragraph amend the second bullet point to read "the audit commission survey of head teachers"

### **Progress and attainment update**

The Director of Learning, Education Walsall circulated a summary of the informal consultation on the proposals for the review of maintained specialist educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs in Walsall:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Stainer went through the report and confirmed that it contained a summary for each key stage.

With regard to key stage 2, NRF monies had been utilised for the project and 8 schools had been nominated to work with a number of partners on raising standards in literacy. A group had been assigned to look at assessment for learning and the development of language through science. A group was looking into ethnic minority achievement and another into the achievement of boys.

Each school oversees the project and there are around 48 schools each receiving a substantial sum of money to assist with the projects. The Scheme takes place over a two year period, it enables teachers to observe and work with each other as well as looking at good practice nationally.

He referred to the self evaluation in the context of the new style Ofsted inspection and to two major national initiatives:-

- Implementation of a new inspection framework for schools;
- New relationship for schools.

The initiatives indicate changes for both LEAs and schools. School improvement partners will need to agree schools targets and self evaluation. Schools would be required to complete an annual self evaluation, Education Walsall would validate it and in turn set out priorities that would be agreed with the school. Feedback from schools on the revised inspection process had been positive. Education Walsall

would identify and schools that they considered needed to be targeted for quicker intervention and improvement and this would, in turn, lead to partnership agreements with the schools matching out support from Education Walsall to enable progress to come together to meet their agenda.

Mr. McNulty referred to the need to strengthen the issues around narrowing the gaps and to make the statement clearer.

In response to points raised by the Executive Director, Mr. Stainer informed the Board that pupil progress across key stage 2 had been analysed and it appeared that the key stage 2 plateau was as a result of pupils not achieving a secure result at key stage 1 and around the action by schools when pupils enter year 3. A strong early intervention programme needs to be in place, thereby enabling pupils to become secure level 2s as soon as possible. Initial targets discussion would take place in June, 2005 when various initiatives might be identified to address the issue.

With regard to free school meals, there was a larger percentage of boys than girls receiving free school meals and the impact of this was different for the different phases.

In response to points raised by members with regard to the free school meals data, Mr. Stainer advised that this would be looked at in detail for SEN and looked after children.

Ms. Lomas confirmed that the number of boys in special schools was considerably higher than the number of girls.

The Board **NOTED** the contents of the report.

### **SEN review update**

The report of the Managing Director, Education Walsall was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mrs Murgan (Education Walsall) summarised the content of the report and advised the Board that head teachers had worked together through the process to identify outreach needs. A project team had been established to work with Three Crowns and provide relevant staff to support the head teacher and staff available to assist them in moving forward. The biggest impact for the proposals fell on the groups of people including parents and pupils from Three Crowns and it was recognised that the staff from Three Crowns had supported the best options for pupils and parents with the best interest of the pupils in mind.

Ms. Simpson advised the Board that consideration would be given to setting up peripatetic services and staff at Three Crowns would have an opportunity to move with pupils from their school in order to give them some stability.

The Board **NOTED** the contents of the report.

## **Extended schools**

The report of the Managing Director, Education Walsall was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Jones indicated that the issues of concern centred around the relationship of the whole service of extended schools and the strategy of how the proposals would be developed. Although the report was helpful, additional detail was necessary.

Ms. Simpson advised the Board that this matter was being considered and a number of issues would need to be addressed including the environment in which the pupils would remain. Investigations have been taking place into using the children's centre agenda whereby school buildings would be used for multi-agency purposes with out of school and after school use. It is expected that the introduction of extended schools would not lead to head teachers and staff having additional work .

Mr. German confirmed that it was hoped that the extended schools would also address community cohesion in Walsall as well as the outcomes in the Children Act and all schools would be encouraged to become extended schools and work with communities and parents. The Council has funding for 14 children's centres and a full extended school at Joseph Leckie.

The Board **NOTED** the content of the report and progress to date.

## **Date of next meeting**

The Board **NOTED** the next meeting would take place on 3 May 2005, at a venue to be agreed.

## **Termination of meeting**

The meeting terminated at 6.25 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....