

SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12 October 2005 at 6.00 pm

in a Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor M. A. Bird (Chairman)
Councillor Chambers
Councillor Micklewright
Councillor Walker
Mr. D. Tonks
Mr. B. Lycett
Mr. M. Quinn
Mr. J. Minister (Vice-Chairman)

The Chairman informed the members and public present that the meeting would be adjourned for 15 minutes as it was at present inquorate.

The meeting became quorate and commenced at 6.15 pm.

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cassidy, Mrs Pitt and Munir, Mr. K. Myatt and Mr. C. Payton.

Statutory proposal to discontinue Redhouse Primary School from 31 August 2006

Additional information from Education Walsall, Mr. J. Messenger and Redhouse Primary School was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Ms. Lupton confirmed that Education Walsall would work closely with parents in order to provide the best possible places for their children.

The Chair of Governors, Mr. Sheward, informed the Committee that it had not proven possible to meet with governing bodies in the area in view of the timescales available, schools would not be interested in federation with a school with a deficit budget.

The schools suggested in the report as alternative schools were a considerable distance from Redhouse and the majority of schools within 2 miles, were full to capacity.

Members expressed concern at the distance some parents would need to travel in order to provide education for their children.

Ms. Lupton confirmed that should parents chose to request a place at Edgar Stammers or Meadow View, they would be provided with transport from the Redhouse School site to one of those schools.

Members expressed concern at the possible future deficit of places in primary schools in the Aldridge area.

With regard to the use of Section 106 funds for additional capacity at schools, members were advised that this was based on three children per year group per 100 houses.

After consideration, the committee adjourned into its groups to discuss the proposals further and the LEA Officers, Education Walsall staff and members of the public left the meeting.

The meeting re-convened and the voting was recorded as follows:-

LEA group	–	agreed to discontinue Redhouse Primary School from 31 August 2006.
Church of England Group	-	agreed to discontinue Redhouse Primary School from 31 August 2006.
Roman Catholic Group	-	agreed to discontinue Redhouse Primary School from 31 August 2006.

It was therefore:-

Resolved (unanimously)

That approval be given to discontinue Redhouse Primary School with effect from 31 August 2006.

Resolved further

- (1) That the Childrens Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel be requested to examine the future availability of school places within the Aldridge area in the light of the above decision and how this would be managed by Education Walsall;
- (2) That the medium and long term education prospects for the children of Aldridge in relation to the school organisation plan be investigated as this Committee has grave concerns that there would be sufficient places for primary pupils in Aldridge as a result of the decision made.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.40 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....