

WALSALL STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday 10 July 2006 at 5.30 pm

at the Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall

Present

Councillor K. Phillips
Councillor D. Turner
Councillor M. Yasin
Reverend P. Lister
Reverend E. Snowden
Ms. S. Peace
Mrs. M. Gibbons
Reverend R. Mason
Major A. Finch
Pastor B. Powell
Ms. B. Groombridge
Mr. M. Sacha
Mr. M.M. Al-Haque
Mrs. L. Edwards

In attendance

Mr. D. Taylor - Education Walsall
Mr. M. Blunt - Education Walsall

Appointment of Chairman

Resolved

That Mrs. M. Gibbons be appointed Chairman of SACRE for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Pastor Powell be appointed Vice-Chairman of SACRE for the remainder of the current municipal year.

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ault and Rochelle, Mrs. L. Hassell, Mrs. J. Boden, Father J. Nankivell and Mrs. P. Davies.

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2006, be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

Lichfield Diocesan Education Council to read "Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education"

Presentation by Major Anne Finch, Salvation Army

Major Finch referred to a question at the last meeting relating to a reference in the room of the word "army".

She stated that the Salvation Army was a Christian church and was an army without guns, the Salvation Army fought against the evils, sins and wrongs of the world and tried to bring the love of Christ into every situation that was faced.

The church was a registered charity whose theme was "heart to God and hand to man". The Salvation Army worked with the armed forces supporting them and carrying out work rebuilding in different countries. Work was at present taking place in 110 countries with many different languages and dialects, the Salvation Army was responsible for hospitals, old people's homes, children's homes, hostels for men, women and children and a new refuge had recently been developed. The Salvation Army carried out work within the community and each corps tried to meet the needs of its community and therefore was very diverse. In Walsall the Salvation Army worked with families and their own homes and well as the homeless offering very cheap food and clothing and sometimes things free of charge as well as taking out meals on Christmas day. The Salvation Army also provided shoes for children who would go to school in Walsall whose parents could not afford them. Where there was a need, the Salvation Army tried to meet it.

The Chairman and members thanked Major Finch for her presentation and it was:

Resolved

That Mrs. B. Davies do a short presentation to the next meeting on the Methodist Church.

Election of spokesperson for groups

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following be appointed spokespersons for the municipal year 2006/2007 who would be given the power to deal with urgent business between meetings:

Local Education Authority	Councillor K. Phillips
Lichfield Diocesan Council	Ms. S. Peace
Christian and other religious Denominations	Major A. Finch
Teachers	Deferred to the next meeting.

Appointment of Strategy Sub-Group

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the following representatives from each of the undermentioned groups be appointed to the SACRE Strategy Sub-Group:

Local Education Authority	Councillor K. Phillips
Lichfield Diocesan Council	Ms. S. Peace
Christian and other religious Denominations	Major A. Finch
Teachers	Mrs. J. Boden
Chairman	Mrs. M. Gibbons (ex-officio)

Review of Constitution

The report of Constitutional Services was submitted:

(see annexed)

SACRE was informed that the Council had a breakdown by ward of the faith groups meeting within the boundaries of Walsall, but this information had been provided within the 2001 census and would therefore not reflect any movement of people into and out of the borough. The overall percentages of faiths within the borough were as follows:

Christian	72.09%
Muslim	5.37%
Sikh	3.8%
Hindu	1.6%
Other religions	0.16%
Buddhists	0.109%
Jewish	0.03%

The census also indicated that there were 10.04% of the population of the borough with no religion and 7.75% who had not stated a religion.

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that the PLASC data obtained from schools would require ethnicity and faith with effect from next year and more up to date information could be obtained via that method and a report brought to the meeting of SACRE in March 2007.

Resolved

That consideration of the membership of SACRE be deferred to the meeting to be held on 12 March 2007 and the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes to the various organisations.

Nasacre Conference

The minutes of the Nasacre Conference were submitted:

(see annexed)

Mrs. Gibbons paid tribute to the exceptional key note speakers address.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Nasacre Conference held on 4 May 2006 be received.

Draft annual report

The draft report of Education Walsall was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor confirmed that by September 2006 examination results would be available and it would be possible to include in the draft report an analysis of the three year trends. He requested members to provide any additional information relating to acts of collective worship and other comments on the report to be provided by the last Friday in September in order that they could be included in the final document for approval at the November meeting.

He confirmed that the future arrangements for the annual report would involve a draft report being presented to SACRE in July for any comments, the final report for approval in November.

Mr. Taylor expanded on the information contained within the annual report. Members were requested to forward any comments to Constitutional Services as a result of the visits undertaken to schools in order that these could be included in the annual report.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft report be received and members requested to provide information on the outcome of their visits to schools in the borough to monitor collective worship and that this information be included in the draft report.
- (2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of SACRE on the “every child matters” paper.

Visiting and monitoring schools on the use of the Agreed Syllabus

Mr. Taylor informed SACRE that the 5 year plan and self-evaluation requested information on how SACRE monitored teaching of religion in schools. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural checklists and tool for audit purposes would be useful for members.

Members requested training to enable them to carry out this function.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a list of questions for monitoring collective worship be submitted to the November meeting to include information on each key stage;
- (3) That a copy of the amended agreed syllabus be circulated to all members;
- (4) That approval be given to members visiting Alumwell and Shire Oak Schools to look at the good practice at both schools in the first instance.

Proposed local conference/seminar

Members requested the Mick Walters be contacted with a view to him providing the key note speech at the conference to be held on a Thursday in March 2007 at Bescot Stadium.

Resolved

That further consideration of this matter be deferred to the November meeting.

Dates for future meetings

Resolved

That the meetings of SACRE be agreed as follows:

Monday 13 November 2006

Monday 12 March 2007

Monday 9 July 2007

And that the meetings be held at the Salvation Army Citadel, Green Lane, Walsall commencing at 5.30 p.m.

Self evaluation and the role of SACRE

The Ofsted, SACREs and self evaluation guide was circulated:

(see annexed)

Mr. Taylor confirmed that he would circulate the self –evaluation toolkit for SACREs to evaluate where it is a SACRE to the next meeting. He suggested that it might be appropriate to establish a steering group to look at this and consider:

- Where we are now
- What we plan to do
- What can we achieve as a group

The self review could be carried out every July/November.

Resolved

That the toolkit for looking at self-evaluation be submitted to the next meeting.

Spirituality

Members had discussed spirituality in the context of the annual report.

Resolved

That SACRE note the information in relation to spirituality in the context of the annual report.

Standing item – Budgetary requirements for 2006/2007

Mr. Taylor asked SACRE for information on the costs it would want to reserve for the review of the agreed syllabus, guidance on collective worship and any other tasks that it considered would be appropriate.

SACRE agreed that Mrs. J. Boden meet with Mr. Taylor to discuss the budgetary requirements of SACRE for the forthcoming year.

The meeting terminated at 6.58 pm.

Chairman:

Date: