

SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Monday 20 February 2006 at 6.00 pm

in a Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor M. A. Bird (Chairman)
Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Chambers
Councillor Micklewright
Mr. B. Lycett
Mr. J. Minister (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. C. Payton
Dr. H. Seaton
Mr. N. Baddeley
Mrs J. Cocken
Mr. Ditta
Mrs Sylvester

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors E. E. Pitt and Walker and Mr. M. Quinn.

Changes in Membership

- (a) That the Committee note the undermentioned appointments to fill vacancies on the School Governor Group of the Committee:-

Mrs D. Sylvester – Nursery School
Mrs J. Cocken – Primary School
Mr. A. Ditta – Primary School
Mr. N. Baddeley – Secondary School

- (b) That the Committee note the recent resignation of Mr. A. Gray and Mr. M. Edge who were no longer eligible to represent the Governor Groups on the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes – 26 January 2005, 28 September and 12 October 2005

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 January, 28 September and 12 October 2005, were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

- (1) That the minutes of the above mentioned meeting be approved, subject to the minutes on 26 January 2005, being amended to read "Councillor Walker as present" in place of Councillor Worley.
- (2) That all members of the Committee be advised by letter information relating to the reallocation of pupils from Redhouse School and how these have been absorbed into the Aldridge School community, with particular concern about Leighswood School.

Late Items to be Introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.

Local Government (Access to Information Act, 1985

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

Children and Young People's Plan 2006/07

The report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Mr. Harman introduced the plan and invited members comments.

Members were concerned that there appeared to be an overlap with work being undertaken in more than one area of the authority and that this should be avoided.

Dr. Seaton of the Learning and Skills Council briefly outlined to the Committee the Learning and Skills Council's involvement and funding within the authority and in view of its role, this should be recognised on the front of the plan.

After considerable discussion, it was:-

Resolved

That the draft children and young peoples plan be noted and the following suggestions be incorporated therein, together with any further suggested amendments being notified to the Children's Services Section by 23 February 2006:-

- The plan needed to be easy to read;
- An executive summary should be included;
- More information was required on Looked After Children;
- A glossary of terms be included;
- Targets needed to be SMART;
- Bullying targets be included;
- Provisions need to be made clear;
- The plan should be more balanced between pre 16 and 16-19 age range;
- The 10 point entitlement for all 14/19 years olds and the 14-19 white paper should be reflected in the plan;
- The plan should refer to the education white paper;
- Post 16 years be included and cross referenced to the Learning and Skills Council, the Learning and Skills Council logo be included on the front cover alongside "Connexions"
- Include percentage targets (not mixed);
- The diagram on page 9 needs to be more explicit;
- "Medium IPF" on graph should show a line and not a bar;
- The geographical variation (page 12) should indicate Wards;
- Link drugs and alcohol together.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.55 pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....