

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 11/10 **1 November 2010**

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The Bulletin Board is an NGA membership benefit circulated to Local Associations and to Co-ordinators of Governor Services to update them on NGA's work, consultations and developments in school governance.

Please share this information widely, through your email contacts and at local meetings, to keep governing bodies better informed of, and more involved in, current activities and national issues.

FOR ACTION: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NGA Conference and 2010 AGM ~ *Managing Your School's Money*: 6 November in London

Lord Jonathan Hill, the Under-Secretary of State for Education (who has governance in his ministerial brief and is a governor) will provide the keynote speech.

Please note that we are planning to suggest a change to subscription rates at our AGM this year, on which members will be asked to vote. If you are not attending the conference but want to vote on this issue, proxy forms can be downloaded from the website and need to be submitted to the office by 3.15pm on Thursday 4 November.

For ACTION: Last Chance to Vote – NGA General Directors

The NGA is your membership organisation, so it's vital that you help shape how it is run. A number of local associations have not yet exercised their right to vote. This is a FINAL reminder to all NGA members that completed ballot forms need to be submitted to the NGA office by **Thursday 4 November (2pm)**. There are seven candidates for three General Director vacancies on the NGA Board. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM on 6 November. Click here for more information and to download a ballot form: [NGA Board Elections](#).

NGA Autumn Regional Meetings ~ Regional Director elections: In some regions elections were held to appoint Regional Directors. The following were elected: North East – Frank Ridley; East – Joyce Woodham; London – Lesley Stout; South East – Doris Neville-Davies. Siddique Hussain and Fred Manning have been appointed as Regional Directors for the West and East Midlands respectively – elections will be held in those regions in the forthcoming months. Details of the elections will be placed in the Bulletin Board, e-newsletter and website in due course.

TUC Conference - Debating the government's reform agenda: the future for our schools

27 November in London

NGA Chief Executive, Emma Knights is one of the speakers at this free conference. Visit their web page for more information: [TUC Conference](#)

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

1 Planning for School Development

This Communities and Local Government Department seeks views from community representatives, including school governors, as well as local planning authorities and school promoters. In accordance with its aim of decentralising power, the Coalition Government is seeking to devolve control to local communities and decision-making powers to local councils. This consultation invites views on the plans to make it easier for new schools to be established and to make change of use planning permission an easier process. For full details visit: www.communities.gov.uk/consultations.

Responses may be made by email by downloading a questionnaire from the website at: www.communities.gov.uk/consultations, which should be sent to: schools@communities.gsi.gov.uk, or sent by post to: Sharmila Meadows, Schools Team, Planning Development Management Division, Communities and Local Government, 1/JE Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

Deadline 10 December 2010

Please copy responses to NGA

FOR INFORMATION

1 Key meetings attended in October

As well as the NGA Regional meetings on Academies, relevant meetings at the three main party political conferences, and attendance at a couple of local authority and local association events, the following meetings were attended by NGA:

Independent Academies Association (6.10.10): Clare Collins, NGA's Chair, attended and chaired a workshop session on governance in academies.

Association of Teachers and Leaders conference (8.10.10): Emma Knights spoke at this national conference on the NGA and its advice to governors on converting to academies.

National Co-ordinators of Governors Services national conference (13 – 15.10.10): Emma Knights attended and gave a plenary address. NCOGs used the second day of the conference to develop a draft manifesto on governance.

Education & Employer Partnership Task Force Research conference (15.10.10): a session was held on 'employee governors'.

Liberal Democrat Education Association (16.10.10): Emma Knights attended their meeting to discuss the draft policy paper that the group is developing on the role of governing bodies for consideration by the party.

DfE Advisory Group on Governance (19.10.10): Discussions were had on academies, free schools and the NGA's submission of '*Reducing the Bureaucracy of Governance*'. This paper can be downloaded from our newsletter dated 15.10.10. Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

DfE Ministerial School Improvement task & finish group (21.10.10): This is part of the DfE's on-going review on the role of local authorities in education.

DfE School Funding Implementation Group (SFIG) (22.10.10): SFIG were briefed on the effect of the Comprehensive Spending Review for schools.

Meeting with Lord Hill, Under-secretary of State for Education (22.10.10): Clare Collins, Emma Knights and Gillian Allcroft met with Lord Hill to discuss NGA's submission on reducing bureaucracy and the future of governance given the increasing freedoms for schools. We took the opportunity to promote the importance of training and clerking.

Oral evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education (27.10.10): Gillian Allcroft, NGA Policy Manager, gave evidence on behaviour and attendance.

2 School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) research

Research is being undertaken on the STRB's behalf by ORC International, to improve the STRB's understanding of how flexibilities within the reward system for teachers and leaders are used, and the decision-making processes involved. The Secretary of State has indicated, in his recent remit letter to STRB, his intention to ask the review body to undertake work in this area in the future. ORC International has been commissioned to carry out a sample survey of head teachers and chairs of school governing bodies to collect information on these issues. Schools have been selected across all phases and regions of England and Wales and interviews are planned to take place in November and early December.

The survey interview will cover the following areas; Familiarity with/use of existing flexibilities for classroom teachers; Views on existing flexibilities for classroom teachers; Rewarding high performance; Approach to setting head teacher pay and Satisfaction with the existing system of reward.

STRB recognises the key role governors play in managing pay decisions and the many demands placed upon chairs of governing bodies but are keen to achieve high response rates to the survey to ensure that the review body has the best possible information to inform its future considerations of pay and related matters. If you are approached, your participation would be very welcome.

It is expected that a research report, setting out the key findings from the survey, will be published on the OME website in early 2011.

3 The Teaching Awards 2010

The Teaching Awards 2010 took place on Sunday 31 October 2010. Almost 90 schools nationwide were represented at the glittering event before a 2000-strong audience. Congratulations to Phillip Capper, winner of the Governor of the Year award and Chair of Governors at Ysgol Bryn Elian, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. More information on all the award winners is available via the attached link – [Teaching Awards 2010](#)

4 Incentives for associations to encourage schools into NGA membership

Did you know that, if half of an association's members join the NGA (as governing bodies), then the association itself does not have to pay any membership fee to NGA? NGA has now extended this principle so that, if just one quarter of an association's schools becomes members of the NGA, we will halve the association's fee for the following year. In addition, an association's members will also now be entitled to a £5 reduction on their school's NGA membership fee, which means that, instead of £60 for standard governing body membership, the school would pay NGA £55.

We are developing our new membership promotions leaflet. If you are interested in promoting NGA membership to your schools, please e-mail Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk

5 NGA Governance Awards 2011

Don't forget to make nominations for the National Governors' Association Awards for Outstanding School Governance 2011. There are two prestigious awards:

- NGA's and Governor Wales' Outstanding Clerk Award (England & Wales), and
- NGA's Outstanding Governing Body Award (England only).

There will be both national and regional winners, and awards will be presented at a national ceremony in March 2011.

The closing date is approaching – it is 15 November 2010 (12 noon). Don't let great work go unnoticed. Our members supported our first 'ask' in our manifesto – raising the profile of governors and the importance of school governance. These awards are a very good way of achieving that – please do so.

Nomination forms are now available via the attached link – [NGA Awards 2011](#)

6 New editions of Guides available from NGA

New editions of the NGA Guides, with updated information on legislation, are available this Autumn. These valued publications are purchased by over 50 local authorities as a credible source of information and guidance for governors. The publications are available at discounted rates for NGA members. Our new edition of *Welcome to Governance* and *Welcome to Clerking* are now being despatched and other NGA publications will follow later this month. In association with LGiU, we are also selling *Academies Act 2010: A Concise Guide*.

For further information, and to access the order form for the new NGA Guides, visit the NGA website: [NGA Guides](#)

7 Local Association websites

NGA is continually developing and improving our website and has introduced new regional pages. To provide useful information for NGA members, we have included a list of local associations, by region, that link through to local associations' websites. Please view the web page: [Local Association websites](#). If there are any changes you wish to make, please contact Pardeep Mattu, NGA Communications Manager, by e-mail:

Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk

8 Regional stories needed

Do you have forthcoming meetings to promote or do you want to share success stories on governance or your local association? We now have a regional page available in our membership magazine, *Matters Arising*, to enable you to communicate to a wider audience. If you have any story ideas, please contact Pardeep Mattu, NGA Communications Manager, by e-mail: Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk

9 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

Changes are being made to this distance-learning programme to fit with the 2010/11 edition of *Welcome to Governance*.

10 Teachers TV

Teachers' TV is now available exclusively online. Access all you wish to view by going to www.teachers.tv. TTV has a microsite on the NGA website: <http://www.nga.org.uk/ttv.aspx> Teachers TV have also produced a complementary CD *Training for Governors*, which will be distributed with every new edition of *Welcome to Governance* ordered.

11 NGA Membership Benefits

Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits. Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine, *Matters Arising*, sent to their home address, to have access to the members' only section of the NGA website and to have the e-newsletter sent direct to their email address. If you have not yet given us the names, addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please let us have the information as soon as possible. Without these details your association is not receiving its full membership benefits.

Email Forum: Have you joined the forum yet? *If you wish to be placed on the forum, e-mail Pardeep Mattu: Pardeep.Mattu@nga.org.uk*

12 Our address details

We have noticed that some of our members are still addressing post to our old office address. Please update your records to the following details:

National Governors' Association, Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY.

Tel: 0121 237 2380, fax: 0121 233 1323.