

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD 23 JUNE 2010

In attendance: Barbara Arrandale, Martin Brader, Stuart Conway, Paul Mason & Mahala Titterton.

Apologies: Linda DuRoe, John Partington, Barry Thacker and Peter Thorne.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising: amendment to the date - should read 26 May 2010.

Local issues: No date yet set for the Local Social partnership meeting.

The Schools Forum meeting will be held on the 30 June 2010.

Mahala & Martin had attended a successful Clerks Conference at South Normanton on the 9 June.

Martin had attended 2 informal meetings at which Academies issues were agenda items.

Following a discussion by the DSGA Executive it was agreed that Martin should maintain contact and report back on developments. He will also place relevant information on our website.

Regional issues: Paul reported that Lincolnshire, Nottingham City & Nottinghamshire associations were experiencing difficulties. However, Northamptonshire was an improving situation.

The next regional meeting will be on Tuesday 12 October hosted by Leicester City. Venue to be notified in due course.

National issues: Paul reported on NGA's concerns following the coalition's position on education. Main elements include freedom to provide education, reform Ofsted and accountability, Heads to be responsible for curriculum. They envisage a slimmer curriculum with teachers deciding HOW it is taught. They want improved discipline, a year 6 reading test and expect standards to rise through Academies. Money will follow pupils, especially poorer pupils. Clarity is needed in respect of legislation (section 5 2005 Act), national curriculum (section 2 2002 Act), behavioural issues (section 7 2006 Act), appeals (section 52 2006 Act) and finance (section 45 2006 Act). The Secretary of State will determine funding.

There are 3 major issues in respect of the academies Bill for NGA. Namely, governing body responsibilities, admissions code and parent representation.

The Early Childhood Education Bill is expected in the autumn.

Other issues of concern: Free Schools - the coalition want to mirror the Swedish style but no definite statement has yet been made. Serious financial cuts to be

made.

BECTA & the General Teaching Council have been abolished. Vetting & Barring now on-hold. Interim arrangements for Contact Points.

Regulations for next year will be published in due course. There are concerns about SEN provision (does not apply to Academies). Appeals and managed moves are also serious issues to be addressed. What happens to PFI schools? There are QUESTION and ANSWERS on the NGA website together with additional relevant information. These Q & A's will also be on our website together with a warning for governors who may be considering Academy status.

Paul reminded members of the NGA Board elections and their re-think on membership fees etc.

Treasurer's Report: Stuart distributed copies of the current financial situation.

The date of the next meeting is WEDNESDAY 28 JULY T 7PM.

AOB: The AGM is scheduled for WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER AT 7PM followed by the executive Meeting at 7.30pm. Martin will flag this up on the website seeking agenda items from Derbyshire Governors.

Mike Longden is suggesting a meeting on Wednesday 30 June at 5pm. Paul will confirm. Martin & Stuart able to accompany Paul.

Being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.