

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF DEAN VALLEY
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON 6 MARCH 2008**

Present:

Mr D Picken	Chair
Mrs A de Sousa	Vice Chair
Miss A Greenwood	
Mr B Loveday	
Mrs J Vessey	
Mrs J Thorpe	Headteacher
Mrs M Wakefield	
Mrs A Gurney	
Mr T Watson	
Mrs J Massey	
Mrs H Cann	

In attendance: Mrs J Ewington (Clerk to the Governors)

PART ONE

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

that the apologies for absence received from Mrs Mapson be accepted.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED:

that Mrs A De Sousa was appointed Vice Chair for 1 year at meeting held 8th November 2007.

3. PECUNIARY INTEREST

RESOLVED: that there were no declarations of pecuniary interest. That Mrs Vessey declared a potential conflict of interest on finance matters.

4. MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: that there were no changes in membership.

5. PART ONE MINUTES

- a) It was requested that items under the Directors Report should be numbered or lettered to match the Report.
- b) It had not been recorded that FMSiS matters were delegated to the Finance Committee.
- c) Some copies of the Minutes did not included Mr Watson in attendance

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. MATTERS ARISING

1. Meeting 8 November 2007

Item 9a – that the policy for Governors expense claims be withdrawn. Mrs Thorpe would amend procedures manual to include this item.

Item 16 – Training Day; the Clerk updated Governors on the health of Jill Bostock.

Item 11 – School Fund; as recorded in the Finance Committee minutes of 25th January, it was confirmed that the School Fund had been audited and the certificate would be circulated to Governors.

2. Meeting 24 January 2008

Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to Governors by email, were agreed as true record.

7. COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: following discussion and minor amendments including the date of review and that in keeping with the Guide to the Law all terms of reference would be reviewed annually, that the terms of reference for committees and the standing orders for the Governing Body be approved.

8. PART ONE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Finance

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting 25 January 2008 be received and recommendations adopted.

that the Governors Fund now being defunct, the account should be closed by the Chair.

Curriculum

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting 9 January 2008 be received and recommendations adopted.

Personnel

RESOLVED:

that the part 2 minutes be recorded as a Part 2 item.

Marketing

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting 29th February 2008 be received and recommendations adopted.

9. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2007 FEEDBACK

A presentation was given by Mrs De Sousa comparing school statistics to other local schools, Cheshire in general and national results and expectations.

RESOLVED: that Mrs De Sousa had provided thought provoking information which would help Governors in benchmarking and planning.

10. PART ONE HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The Headteacher's Report contained the following matters:

- Staffing
- Pupils
- School Council
- Special Needs
- Behaviour
- Strategic School Development Plan
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Target setting
- Community
- Education Improvement Partnership
- Finance
- Building/grounds
- Health and Safety
- Eco-school
- Sports
- Visits and Visitors

Mrs Thorpe explained that Yr 6 progress was currently being assessed and that although statistics place some pressure on staff it is Senior Leadership which looks at this based on a particular cohort. It was confirmed that the SIP had postponed his visit.

Mrs Thorpe confirmed that there was collaborative working for Macclesfield and Bollington schools through EIP and a Governors Forum was held termly. She asked for the support of a Governor bearing in mind the forthcoming Local Government Review.

An update was given on the 'Footprints' nursery situation where there had been a change of architect and the new architect had visited the site and further comments were awaited.

It was confirmed that the trespassing problem had improved over the winter evenings.

RESOLVED:

- a) that part one of the Headteacher's Report be received with thanks
- b) that a Personnel Committee meeting was required
- c) that it was noted that by 2012 all schools are required to have a global dimension and that the Head would be attending a meeting to progress this aspect.
- d) that the SSDP be approved
- e) that Target Setting be approved
- f) that Myra Wakefield join Mrs Thorpe at Governors Forum termly meeting

11. DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

The Director of Children's Services Report for the Spring term 2008 contained the following matters:

- School uniform
- Use of force to control or restrain pupils
- Cheshire Curriculum Team
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Primary Capital Programme
- New Secondary curriculum
- 14-19 latest
- Common Assessment Framework and ContactPoint
- Financial Management Standards in Schools
- Annual consultation on admission arrangements
- Transforming Learning Communities
- Abolition of the School Organisation Committee and new local arrangements
- Appointment of school governor representatives to give advice on school reorganisation proposals.

Governors discussed: the need to adopt a formal school uniform, use of force, the curriculum provision, report on early years, FMSiS and the visit by the audit team, admission arrangements and confirmation that details would be available on 14th March, TLC where strong local feeling and vitriolic letters to Governors had led Governors to a decision to remain impartial. Parents who had approached the school had been asked to contact their existing child's school for information. It was confirmed that Dean Valley was not full. It was confirmed that the school had not offered a response on the consultation on admission arrangements.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the report be received
- b) that items be noted

12. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The LA's consultation paper was noted.

13. SCHOOL POLICIES

RESOLVED:

that the following Policies be adopted with immediate effect:

Charging
Medicine

That policies on Whistle blowing and pay be considered on the Cheshire models.

14. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr Picken and Mrs de Sousa had attended the Governors Conference in Chester and confirmed it worthwhile, with excellent speakers/interesting subjects.

Mr Watson was hopeful that a suitable date for induction training would be available shortly. The Clerk confirmed that dates were available for the summer term, but autumn term had not yet been arranged. Unfortunately the training schedule had been affected by the serious illness of the main tutor, but the arrival of the new Principle Officer would help to remedy the situation.

15. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

that the informal meeting of the Governing Body would be held on 8th May and the next full Governing Body meeting be held on Thursday 19 June 2008 at 5.30 p.m. at the School.

AOB

RESOLVED:

that the forthcoming school Council meeting had been cancelled

that the Chair had progressed the proposed wind turbine and found that the site would not be suitable, but that there was a possibility of another means of green power through a photo voltaic that would result in gradual relevant reductions in the energy bill and the possibility of selling energy back to the national grid. Governors agreed this should be progressed by the Chair with a possible presentation to Governors once full details known. It was suggested that Mr Loveday , Ms Halton and Mrs Thorpe initially attend a meeting with the Chair and Mr Whittaker.

----- Chair

----- Dated