

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE
24 October 2005

COUNCILLORS: *Bax (Chair), *Engert, *Harris, *Meehan & *Santry.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS: Ms C Andrews, Mr J Connerty, *Mr T Fyles (Vice Chair), *Dr N Oparaeché & *Ms B Simon.

LONDON DIOCESAN BOARD FOR SCHOOLS: Mr L Haward & Mr G. Marriner

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE EDUCATION SERVICE: Mrs S Berkery-Smith, Mrs M Fayker & *Mr M Pittendreigh.

LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL: Ms P Langton.

*** Members present**

In attendance: Lindsay Bates, Director of Strategy and Skills, LSC representing Ms P Langton.
Ian Bailey, Assistant Director, Quality & Development, Children's Services, LBH.
Corinne Hilton, Quality & Development, Children's Service, LBH.

SOC14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mr J Connerty, Mr G Marriner and Ms P Langton.

SOC15. URGENT BUSINESS (Agenda item 2)

There were no items of urgent business. The Chair advised that any issues to be raised around Coleridge would be taken at item 8.

SOC16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3)

None received.

SOC17. MINUTES (Agenda item 4)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2005 were approved.

SOC18. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

SOC19. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS (Agenda item 5)

None received.

SOC20. THE ENLARGEMENT OF TETHERDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL (Agenda item 6)

Ian Bailey, Assistant Director of Children's Services, tabled a report on a post-approval modification on the expansion of Tetherdown.

We noted the expansion of Tetherdown Primary School by an additional form of entry from one to two forms was agreed by the SOC on 24 June 2004. Planning approval for the scheme was also approved. The precise details for the scheme following further development showed it was possible to accommodate thirty additional pupils from September 2006. The Children's Service conclude these places are needed as demonstrated through application trends and birth data that they will be taken up. Therefore the SOC was asked to vary their previous decision to open in 2007 to 2006.

RESOLVED:

1. That the SOC welcomed the decision.
2. That the post-approval modification was agreed.

SOC21. NEW GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEES (Agenda item 7)

Ian Bailey highlighted the main changes in the new guidance for SOCs and agreed to circulate a formatted hard copy of the document to Members of the Committee.

Ian Bailey advised members that the guidance was in two parts but that the majority had not changed substantially since 2003. The first part included the checks that should be carried out on consultations and published in the required manner. It then goes on to refer to papers prepared for the SOC, feedback on the consultation from the start and any objections received. The next section refers to the type of decisions which can be made to either agree, disagree with modifications or conditional approval dependent on planning approval. There are also references to the Schools Adjudicator if the SOC does not agree.

The changes appear in paragraphs 45-47 (New Secondary School Competitions) and the Authority will be following this procedure in January 2006. Paragraph 48 refers to increasing the fast tracking of schools whose Governors wish to become foundation schools. In some cases it would be possible for Governors to not consult the SOC. There may also be a white paper to extend this proposal to primary schools.

The second part refers to the constitution of the SOC, which had not changed in any significant way. Members were advised that there was not a political balance between the members. The SOC discussed the political balance and was noted that currently the Liberal Democrat representation was 20%, and should be 28%. It was therefore proposed to increase the Liberal Democrat representation by one member.

RESOLVED:

1. Agreed that a Liberal Democrat member be elected onto the SOC.

2. That Members note the new guidance.

SOC22. CURRENT SCHOOL ORGANISATION CHANGES UPDATE (Agenda item 8)

Ian Bailey informed the Committee that he proposed to update them on the proposals for Bounds Green and Coleridge Schools.

Bounds Green

We noted that Bounds Green School had been mentioned in the School place planning report at the July meeting. The head teachers had raised concerns over their budgets. The Local Authority had carried out a review and the findings were that currently the school had three forms of entry however the take up was only two and a bit. It was proposed to reduce the entry to two rather than three forms. The second finding was that they were operating as separate infant and junior schools and was unable to deliver a sustainable budget.

A proposal was being put before The Executive on 1 November 2005, to amalgamate the schools to a primary. If the proposal were to be agreed then the consultation process would begin from 7 December 2005 and end on 14 February 2006. Notices would be published on 14 January 2006 and thereafter the SOC would be required to meet in February to agree the proposal.

Coleridge

We noted the consultation process had started on 12 September 2005 and the first stage had finished last Friday. The Authority had received around 200 responses which would be replied to. Concerns already raised were around the level of traffic and the site being across a main road. The Statutory notices would be published between 2 November – 13 December 2005. It was proposed to introduce new pupils from September 2006. Therefore it was expected that a decision would need to be made by the SOC in January 2006.

RESOLVED:

1. That a Special Meeting of the SOC takes place in January to agree this item only. A provisional date was identified as Monday 23 January 2006.
2. That the scheduled meeting on 8 February 2006 be postponed to the provisional date of Monday 27 February 2006.

SOC23. POST 16 UPDATE (Agenda item 9)

Members received an update from Lindsay Bates, Director of Strategy and Skills, on the current proposals for Post 16 education in Haringey. Members were advised that planning permission had been granted and approved the £10 million construction to the site. The LSC had agreed to fund the remainder of the costs for the building. However the transition funding was still to be resolved and discussions were being held between the project board and the Authority.

Members were also informed the Memorandum of Agreement had been signed. The interim Governors were also appointed and the first meeting was due to take place next week. Once the full Governing body had been established then the LSC would reduce their membership to one. The draft job description was being drawn up for the Principal and the appointment was to be made for April or May 2006. The LSC was still on target for the September 2007 opening of the centre.

A marketing organisation had been appointed to work on the branding for the centre. This was still at a consultative stage, the branding would be developed by the marketing company and the final decision on the brand would be made by young people. Lindsay Bates agreed to provide the name of the nominated company to Members.

Lindsay Bates again advised the SOC that the LSC London North was fully committed to this project.

RESOLVED: That Lindsay Bates provides the name of the marketing company appointed to develop a branding for the Sixth Form Centre.

SOC24. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS (Agenda item 10)

None received.

SOC25. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 11)

Provisional dates were identified for the forthcoming meetings but these would be confirmed as soon as possible:

Monday 23 January 2006 at 6:00pm.
Monday 27 February 2006 at 6:00pm.

THE MEETING WAS DECLARED CLOSED AT 7:15PM

JUDY BAX
Chair