

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE
18 January 2006

COUNCILLORS: *Bax (Chair), *Engert, *Harris, *Meehan, *Newton and *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 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.
Cllr Ron Aitken
Ian Bailey, Assistant Director, Quality & Development, Children's Services, LBH.
Corinne Hilton, Quality & Development, Children's Service, LBH.

SOC25. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair announced the recent death of a Member of Committee, Mrs Sheila Berkery-Smith, OBE and representative of the WDES. She was a well known Member who had given her life to public service in Haringey and particularly education over a number of years. The SOC stood for one minute silence in memory.

SOC26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Dr N Oparaeché, and apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Harris.

SOC27. URGENT BUSINESS (Agenda item 2)

There were no items of urgent business.

SOC28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3)

None received.

SOC29. MINUTES (Agenda item 4)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2005 were approved.

SOC30. MATTERS ARISING

The clerk advised members of the nominated name of the marketing company (Creative Change) appointed to work on the branding for the new Sixth Form Centre.

SOC31. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS (Agenda item 5)

The meeting agreed to receive a presentation from Cllr Ron Aitken and deputations on the Proposed Expansion of Coleridge Primary School from the following:

1. Mr David Barry (Chair of Governors) Ashmount Primary School – objector.
2. Ms Arabella Weir (PTA) Ashmount Primary School – objector.
3. Ms Jill Russell (Chair of Governors) & Ms Shirley Boffey (Headteacher) Coleridge School – supporter.
4. Ms Sarah Cook, Future of Coleridge Group, Coleridge School – objector.
5. Ms Sue Hessel, Haslemere Road Residents Association – objector.
6. Mr Nariman Ghandi (Chair of Governors) Highgate Primary School – objector.
7. Dr Kirit Modi, Assistant Director, Islington Council – Objector.
8. Ms Helen Riley, Pro Group, Coleridge School - supporter.
9. Mr A M Dickson (Chair of Governors) St Peter in Chains RC Infant School – objector.

Questions were asked of each deputation.

The Chair thanked each deputation for their attendance.

SOC31. THE ENLARGEMENT OF COLERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL (Agenda item 6)

Ian Bailey, Assistant Director of Children’s Services, presented the report on the proposal to enlarge Coleridge Primary School. We noted the consultation was carried out in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the guidance “Proposers Guidance for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies: Statutory Proposals for Changes to Mainstream Schools” published by the DfES. A joint Coleridge School/ Children’s Service working party was formed to develop the proposals.

There is a historical shortage of primary places in the area and the proposals have the full support of the school and the governing body. The proposal is to expand Coleridge Primary School from its present two forms of entry to four forms. The additional capacity would be located on the site of the former TUC centre, immediately opposite the existing Coleridge site. The current proposal is for the school to operate with foundation and key stage 1 on the TUC site and with key stage 2 on the existing Coleridge site.

The 2006 entry additional reception cohort would be accommodated on the existing Coleridge school site and building works to the TUC site would be completed in time for the September 2007 intake.

Members noted the points in support of the proposal:

- Allowing school children places close to their homes.

- A larger Coleridge would allow children from a wider and diverse area to be educated at a very successful school.
- Praise for the leadership of Coleridge school.
- Support for increased parental choice.

The main objections and concerns raised:

- Evidence of demand for places.
- Impact on other local schools.
- The size of the proposed expanded school.
- Impact of increased traffic in area.
- Safe crossing of the road between the two sites.
- Issues concerning the consultation process.

The representations received concerning traffic would be addressed once planning permission was sought.

RESOLVED:

1. That following each member group having cast their vote the SOC did not agree a unanimous decision.
2. That the proposal be considered by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. This process is expected to take at least six weeks.

SOC32. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS (Agenda item 10)

None received.

SOC36. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 11)

Provisional: Monday 27 February 2006 at 6:00pm.

THE MEETING WAS DECLARED CLOSED AT 10:40PM

JUDY BAX
Chair