

CP informed the governors that the draft instrument had been submitted for approval and the official instrument now received (copies sent by Gov. Svces. were circulated), the official embossed copy being in the office.

Due to the changes in constitution there was now a vacancy for an additional Parent Governor and the notification letters had been sent out to all parents.

CP had spoken to TG regarding the end of her current term of office. Procedure is that all non-teaching staff must be made aware of the opportunity to become a governor, if more than one applicant then an informal election must take place. TG has not managed to speak to all staff yet therefore CP would circulate a memo to all concerned as soon as possible.

ACTION C PARTRIDGE

CP informed the governors that pupils could now become Associate Governors and that DGB had asked that this be raised at the meeting suggesting that a member of the Schools Council could be in attendance on a rota basis. A discussion took place regarding late finish of meetings, suitability of content etc. All governors agreed a member of the Council could attend for possibly the first two items on the Agenda, one of which would be the Head Teachers Report and one other suitable item, CP to enquire whether Associate Governors have to be named or whether it can be on a rota basis as preferred.

ACTION C PARTRIDGE

Finally CP advised the governors that a Link Governor for the year should be appointed. S Fleming was happy to continue in the role and all governors agreed to her appointment.

06. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

A copy was circulated to all present and DGB read through it.

07. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE

DGB informed that he had received the first set of accounts in June, which he would normally process in June/July, due to increased workload regarding the impending Ofsted inspection this proved impossible he has therefore recently been processing some 5 months accounts. He summarised that everything is on track, staffing will meet the targets, and as LAMPS is having an austerity year, spending is not as much as usual. In October he has to submit a midyear review, looking at TV reports and newspaper articles he considers LAMPS to be in a very healthy position in comparison with a lot of other schools and advised that as long as the numbers on role could be maintained he was hopeful that this would continue. There are 16 children looking for admission next year which means he may even have to refuse entry to some.

DGB then advised governors that he was concerned at the burden the forthcoming Ofsted inspection was placing on the budget, Sheila Foote had worked 20-30 hours overtime and DGB had had to have 4 days supply cover (at a cost of £400) to cover his teaching hours whilst involved in preparations. He had thought that the new framework for inspection was supposed to reduce the bureaucratic burden, instead of which he has found the onus has been on the school to provide a great deal more information which has obviously cost time and money that he feels would be better spent on the children. Also there is no allowance made for this in the funds given in the budget to offset these additional expenses against. This will obviously have an impact on the budget (together with the repairs to the corner of the building as mentioned in the Head Teachers Report). All governors agreed with the sentiments expressed.

08. E-LEARNING CREDITS

DGB advised that this was money allocated to schools to be spent on software etc. LAMPS has £1863 to be spent by next August.

09. FORMULA CAPITAL FUNDING

As previously advised this is money available to schools for spending on the school building - the first tranche of money was spent on upgrading the boys toilets. The second tranche (to be spent by April 04) is £7429 - DGB has requested £5750 be transferred into the budget to be spent on disabled access for the school. There are 3 more as follows : -
3K for year 02-03 £10,909 4K for year 03-04 £14,734 and 5K for year 04-05 £16,638 which can be accessed a year early. DGB would like to get together with governors post-Ofsted to see if this money can be used to improve the front of the school as previously discussed, he feels the school should use the money whilst it is on offer. All governors agreed to pursue this idea at the next meeting, CP to include on the Agenda

ACTION C PARTRIDGE

10. STAFFING

Confidential Item - see addendum

11. A.R.S.P. - ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

A copy of the above report had been circulated prior to the meeting. DGB explained that he had spent a lengthy and involved day with the Inspector/Advisor where statistics are looked at and a judgement made. The report speaks for itself and DGB clarified to a governor that there are specified categories of report 'very good' being the best of these categories. It was felt to be a very positive pre-emptive start to Ofsted.

12. CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS - NUMERACY GOVERNORS REPORT

J Ridyard informed governors that she had held an all day maths session with Class 3 utilising Critical Thinking Skills at the end of last term. She explained that 'CTS' is a way of teaching whereby the ethos is that the pupils set the rules for the classroom, they set out their own roles appointing facilitators, time-keepers etc., and where normally teachers would 'interrupt' to give advice, instructions or ask questions this practice is 'against the rules', instead brief written prompts/questions on 'post-its' are placed centrally within the group for them to interpret. For instance if a group are discussing something but one member is not taking part then a note might be written 'are you sure all your group is joining in?' prompting discussion and problem solving within the group itself.

JR gave them carte blanche to invent maths games, making their own rules and deciding on their own names culminating in each group giving a presentation and then they all played each others games. This was very hard and when completing their evaluations they found that some of their instructions hadn't been clear and on further self-analysis this was found to be because their time management had not been successful. At this juncture DGB added that on doing an English lesson on instructions early this term he found that the children had remembered their experiences of this session and endeavoured to write clear concise instructions. He had very much enjoyed the day as had the children and support staff who also utilised the opportunity to enhance their other roles at Furness College. JR added that it was a more adult method of teaching, noise levels occasionally rose beyond the acceptable but this is controlled by asking the whole class for 'quality time'. It has also been found to be successful at dealing with 'obstructive' children, when their peer group tells them why their behaviour is 'spoiling' the session. DGB thanked JR.

13. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DGB has studied the plan and informed that nothing has moved on since June apart from the repairs to the corner wall outside his classroom. A governor enquired as to the status of the boundary wall which had been identified as a problem area. DGB informed that the LEA takes responsibility for the repair of this and have one year in which to do so. If he is not made aware of any intended repair in due course he will be chasing them to carry out the repair.

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Another governor asked about progress in the garden, DGB informed that some work had been carried out during the holidays but that he was disappointed in overall progress. He is going to talk with them and get some commitment for a more speedy approach or he will have to get paid gardeners in to continue.

14. OFSTED

DGB reminded the governors that the Ofsted Inspectors meeting with themselves would take place on Wednesday the 17th September at 1800hrs. JR informed that she would not be able to be present as she is teaching, SF and DB would be doing mentor training in Lancaster but should be back in time.

The actual inspection will take place between 1100hrs Monday 6th October until after school on Wednesday 8th October. DGB invited governors to come in before school, lunch time or after school. PL will come in all day Monday, CH will come in all day Tuesday, DB will come in all day Wednesday (utilising some pupils to update the Web site), JR will come in after school Monday, SF - Tuesday p.m., PB - after school each day, TD - CP to ring and ask suitable time.

ACTION C PARTRIDGE

DGB informed that the children had questionnaires to complete this time as well as the parent questionnaires which have been sent out, and he will be giving the inspectors the governors audit/self-review.

15. GOVERNOR VISITS - UPDATE

P Bishop and C Humphreys had attended school on one of the inset days at the beginning of term, where PB had been in discussion with DGB in his role as SEN governor regarding plans for the coming year regarding both SEN pupils and children on the 'Able Children' Register.

16. TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT

The TA's had held a meeting at the end of last year - nothing major to report. Class 1 TA's had been identified as requiring further IT training - some of which took place on 1st September in school when a 'Network' training session had taken place. A meeting would probably be held prior to half-term. DGB thanked the TA's for attending both inset days at the beginning of term, and for putting in two really useful days.

In the absence of the regular agenda item 'Governor Training' (an omission by the Clerk!) TG took this opportunity to inform governors about the course she had attended on Addictive Substances. (See attached report which was read and discussed and backed up with brochures and leaflets). TG was pleased to find on her return that all the suggestions and policies were all correctly in place at LAMPS, but had found the course very useful and informative and reinforced a lot of the issues for her. For instance an awareness that 'drugs' are commonly to be found in most homes e.g. medications, alcohol and cigarettes. DGB added that during this terms science sessions the children would be analysing the chemical components entering the lungs when a cigarette was smoked.

The Link Governor produced the list of training sessions for the next term in line with the agreed procedure agreed during the SWOT analysis at the last meeting. The list was read, clarified where necessary, and discussed. The following was agreed :

Remodelling the Work force - 27.11.03 - D. Bigland
New Governor - 06.11.03 - C. Humphreys
Accountability - 20.01.03 - C. Humphreys

The Clerk informed that she would like to enrol on the national training programme recently developed and piloted in the area, but that venues and dates would be decided upon receipt of applications, also informing that this programme gives the opportunity to acquire accreditation which she would be interested in pursuing.