

The Chair requested that governors declare any vested interest in any Agenda item, or any amendment to their recorded 'Declaration of Interests'. None declared.

C. Humphreys arrived 19:20hrs.

108. GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The Clerk informed that she was in receipt of a letter from Governor Support Services requesting that she ascertain whether P. Bishop wished to be re-appointed on the expiry of his current term in October 2005. A copy had been given to PB with his agenda. PB informed that he very much enjoyed his role, but that he was now 4 years older than he had been when he had started! If the governors felt he was the right man for the job then he was happy to continue (although possibly not for the full 4 year term); but would quite understand if they thought a younger person should step in. Various governors highlighted the valuable contribution that PB makes giving both his time and different perspective. All governors agreed they were more than happy for PB to continue. CP will inform Governor Services. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

CP informed that it was generally known that J. Ridyard intended to resign as an LEA governor at the end of this academic year, rather than when her term of office ends in December 2006. CP was now in receipt of a letter of resignation and would inform Governor Services, asking whether they had a 'bank' of potential governors to choose from. A discussion ensued regarding possible options. CP informed that governors could not appoint a member of the LEA but parents could vote for one, and that an LEA governor must be approved by the LEA, as P Bishop had been. The Clerk must approach the LEA first before other options were considered. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

109. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

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

110. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE

DGB informed that the budget had been submitted, he had received no phone call and was in receipt of the first printout, therefore the assumption is that the budget has been accepted. Pleasingly the predicted shortfall in numbers for 2007-8 does not now look so definite as numbers at Playgroup have risen. This goes against the national picture of falling roles. A governor added that this maybe due to the closure of another local Playgroup. DGB went on to inform that falling roles meant the closure of some schools and the federation of some small schools. For instance recently Croftlands has affiliated with Newton School and is run by one Head teacher; interestingly when 2 or 3 small schools amalgamate they can go to competition and do not have to be run by the LEA.

A governor enquired at what level role should LAMPS be concerned - current level is 83 DGB would be concerned at the 65-70 mark, as this would mean a significant reduction in budget, thus meaning the loss of T.A.'s etc. which would have a direct effect on the standard of education on offer in the school. Another governor commented that many schools a good deal larger than LAMPS only employ one or two T.A.'s and DGB should be commended for realising the value that extra staff have in terms of teaching standards.

DGB is still working on the financial update as once the budget is submitted in May only one printout is received for May and June, thereafter one is received monthly.

111. PLAYGROUP

DGB reported that it would be impossible or at least very ill-advised for LAMPS to take over Playgroup. This is because Playgroup is linked to the Pre-School Learning Alliance and has charitable status.

This status would have to be relinquished should LAMPS take over and all their assets would have to be given to the Pre-School Learning Alliance or another charity. (They currently have a cæ15K bank balance!

Their biggest concern is that they don't feel they have the experience to deal with Ofsted and its ever changing demands, or all the Health & Safety issues etc.; the majority if not all the committee members only serve a two year term whilst their children attend Playgroup which doesn't allow for any building of expertise. Therefore some form of consistency is required. It is proposed that in September no more than 3 staff will be co-opted onto the Playgroup Committee: Sue Simpson in her Role as Foundation Stage Co-ordinator and with all her wealth of experience of Playgroup, Maria Brown as Foundation Stage Governor and parent (also experienced in the set up of a Nursery Unit), and possibly DGB. A governor enquired how the absence of SS would be covered when she visits Playgroup - Standards Fund monies would be used to cover supply. A governor enquired whether, when the extension is built Playgroup could join in with Reception - this may not be possible, but certainly activities in the garden could be joint, Rising 5's are indeed spending some time in the class room shortly. All governors agreed the proposals regarding the committee were sound and would achieve the same aims as originally intended.

112. OFSTED - NEW SCHEDULE OF INSPECTION

DGB informed that Ofsted are changing the way schools are to be inspected, and that he has attended part 1 of a 3 part course on the topic. Inspection will now be carried out every 3 years instead of 6 at 1 days notice, the Inspector will not be holding a parents meeting, they will not pre-visit the school, just hold a telephone conversation, the Inspection will be over 2 days, and the parents questionnaires will be sent out the same day as the Inspection! The Inspection will be judged on the outcomes of Every Child Matters, which are :-

Being Healthy
Staying Safe
Enjoying and Achieving
Making a Positive Contribution
and Achieving Economic Well-Being

The emphasis will be placed on Self-Evaluation, to which end an on-line S.E.F. (Self-Evaluation Form) must be completed, ideally for September (although the onus is placed more on schools that haven't been inspected for 4 years or more). DGB will work on his parts of the form during the holidays and the governors will need to work on their input in the first meeting of the academic year, therefore it is more likely to be October before LAMPS submits its S.E.F.

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the new format - the governors felt that a great deal was being lost in this new format, depth of knowledge regarding the school and the local community, parents input would be significantly reduced etc. DGB also informed that Ofsted was also becoming regionalised i.e. there would become a North Ofsted and a South Ofsted. It was suggested that the S.E.F. will become like the School Improvement Plan and reviewed at every meeting. S.E.F. to become a standard Agenda item. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

113. GIFTED & TALENTED

DGB had been on a Co-ordinators Course for the 'Gifted and Talented' initiative, and informed that it was the best course he had been on for a while regarding ideas. For instance LAMPS had always had their Able Child Policy, but this had a very academic focus; the suggestion is that a register of children talented beyond the Core subjects be drawn up. Currently some children with a flare for rugby league and others with a flare for music are being given special sessions focussing on these talents. DGB will update the register to include children with talents in special areas across a broad spectrum of subjects/sports. DGB and PB's forthcoming meeting to cover this area. ACTION: DGB/PB

114. HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY - NEW ADDITIONS

The Health & Safety Policy gets updated annually and rather than submit the whole policy to be waded through DGB has put in some new additions, which were circulated to all. DGB read through these with brief discussions/queries taking place. All governors agreed that the new additions were sound and should be added to the current policy. PROPOSED: M. BROWN,

SECONDED: P. LLOYD.

115. REVIEW PAY OF TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF - see Confidential Items

116. MEDIA PUBLICATION OF CHILDREN'S NAMES

DGB reminded governors of the current 'dispute' between the Evening Mail, Westmorland Gazette and local schools, regarding the publication of children's surnames in the press. DGB was now in receipt of a further letter from the Primary Heads Association (P.H.A.). They stated the viewpoint of both the press and the schools in a concise and unbiased way, agreeing the merits of publicising children's successes. However in line with LAMPS thinking they were still advising schools not to release surnames of children. Therefore the situation remains that both publications have placed an embargo on reporting any successes/stories from LAMPS until they are allowed to use surnames. All governors agreed that it was correct to continue with the status quo. A governor raised the issue of third parties using the images of LAMPS children without permission and whether anything could/should be done to prevent this happening, quoting a specific incident whereby LAMPS had been invited to the opening of the local park and the contractor had taken photos and used them for publicity on their website. A debate ensued, however it was felt that this was an exceptional circumstance, whereby LAMPS hadn't directly been involved with the contractor; but if any future such circumstances arose, then LAMPS would approach any such third parties and ensure they complied with the wishes of the School/parents.

117. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

An adviser would be booked in due course but as yet DGB has not received the list of those available.

118. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

All governors agreed to send out the previous questionnaire to parents, which DGB will modify slightly where necessary.

119. SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis was carried out (see addendum 2), and it was decided to use this in formulating the School Improvement Plan.

The Clerk requested that, as one of the governors had to leave imminently, item 123. Teaching Assistants Report be brought forward, all governors agreed.

123. TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT

TG apologised for her recent absences from governors meetings due to attending a Staff Development course linked to her work supporting adults in literacy. She informed that KT and JD had both recently been on courses for 'Outdoor Play', and that she herself was involved in training to become a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). The course involved 3 briefing days, discussing teaching individuals, groups and whole classes - all very straight forward. The next process is for peer assessment, an interview with DGB and an assessment of a portfolio that TG and Sue Hoekstra have to put together; they will look at the evidence and TG must then wait until September. The course does not lead to a formal qualification, but a nice letter confirming the new status!

DGB informed that the HLTA training is a way of recognising what TG and Denise Backhouse do in the school above and beyond what ordinarily might be expected of a TA. However DB is currently fully committed and could not 'stretch' to undertaking this training at the moment.

TG offered her apologies and left the meeting at 20:50hrs.

120. BETTER WAYS TO SCHOOL

CH had E-mailed Inspector Rupert Johnson who had put her in touch with Roger Mallett who is the Cumbria Road Safety Officer. RM would like to hold a meeting with CH, DGB and possibly one other governor to discuss LAMPS concerns regarding the speed limit passing the school, improved signage either side of the school etc. CH mentioned a number of incidents where lorries have been passing at school in/out times and wondered whether some kind of ban might be feasible. RM back from his holidays on July 4th and will call to arrange a meeting.

A governor mentioned the practice of dropping children right outside the school gates on the zig zag lines, which seems to be on the increase, also cars turning round in the gap on School Terrace. A discussion took place and all governors agreed that DGB would send a letter to parents requesting that these practices stop, pointing out the hazards to pedestrians.

ACTION: D BARLOW

121 GOVERNOR VISITS UPDATE

P. Bishop has been in to a couple of French lessons.

122. GOVERNOR TRAINING

As minuted in 106.89 TD to confirm his attendance at the Health & Safety Course on the 27.04.05. Await new Governor Development Training Sessions, which should be published at the beginning of the new academic year.

124. SCHOOLS COUNCIL

The School Council has not met since the last Governors meeting.

125. A.O.B.

1. D. Barlow informed the governors that the Architects Edwards & Elliott had not been very forthcoming lately about progress of the school extension, despite requests from both DGB and TD. He requested the governors approval to write a letter saying that if they don't hear from them then LAMPS will look elsewhere. All governors agreed to this course of action.
2. DGB informed the governors of another spate of vandalism involving the school and school property; he had received a report from the School Caretaker that a group of boys had been asked to leave the playground and he had received verbal abuse from them, also the same thing had happened when a neighbour had asked them to leave on a separate occasion. School equipment had gone missing and was then found in the garden next door. This time DGB made a formal complaint to the police, who then visited the boys homes. Since then, there has been no further trouble; also the police make a cursory visit every evening. A governor reported that they had also reported named people to the police regarding incidents of vandalism and knows that these families were also visited by the police. The police welcome this as any incident, no matter how small, helps them to build the bigger picture. The governors as a whole expressed their sadness that the acts of one or two children in the village, albeit rather older than primary age, were casting LAMPS children in a bad light.
3. A governor gave advance notice of an Exhibition of Art in the Buccleuch Hall, which is to take place on Saturday October 15th, and will include some work done by LAMPS children.
4. It was suggested that Disability Discrimination, SEN and Gifted & Talented be 'bundled' together and a new committee formed to deal with these three items. This to be included as an agenda item for the next meeting. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

126. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

See addendum 1.

127. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

*Monday 26th September, 2005 - 1900hrs at LAMPS.

The meeting closed at 21:20hrs

** The meeting was subsequently postponed until 3rd October 2005.*