

36. C Humphreys to advise on this on her arrival.

47. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

48. GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The Clerk introduced and welcomed Alan Postlethwaite as the new LEA governor and informed that LAMPS once again has a full complement of governors. Committee vacancies were then discussed and all governors agreed on the following:

School & Community Committee - vacancy to be filled by M. Brown.
Pay Review Committee - vacancy to be filled by C. Humphreys
Staff Dismissal Committee - vacancy to be filled by A. Grace
Pupil Discipline Committee - vacancy to be filled by A. Postlethwaite
Admissions Committee - vacancy to be filled by P. Bishop
Governors for Foundation Subjects - R.E. - vacancy to be filled by A. Postlethwaite
" " " - Design & Technology to be filled by P. Lloyd

CP will issue an updated list.

ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

C. Humphreys arrived at 1925hrs.

49. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

A copy was circulated to all present and DGB read through it. DGB advised that for 2006-7 there were now 12 places applied for, which is a very healthy number; although overall this would mean a drop of 3 in total as 15 year 6 pupils will move on

Extended Schools - DGB informed that by 2010 all schools must have extended schools provision in place (0800hrs to 1800hrs) . LAMPS and many other schools would be unable to provide this, but the provision doesn't necessarily have to be on-site, centres can be set up and pupils bussed to and from them. A governor enquired about the cost implications - initially the LEA would cover these costs with some parental contributions, but the feeling is that, like other initiatives in the past, eventually it would have to be self-supporting. DGB explained that a centre could be set up in Dalton, Pennington etc. and a governor informed that one had been successfully set up in Askam Village Hall. DGB has attended an initial meeting at Dowdales, who, with a cluster of primary schools are looking into the possibility of setting up one of these centres (currently there is nothing in Dalton), and it maybe that a company is set up to make this provision. The next meeting is to be held in March and DGB wants to be very much involved in this so that LAMPS, as a rural school, is not left on the periphery.

At this juncture in the meeting Mr. Frank Edwards of Edwards & Elliott, the Architects employed to oversee the building of the school extension was invited to speak to the governing body.

51. Mr. Edwards drew a diagram to show the position of an old Victorian 6" drain which runs across the playground in the vicinity of the proposed extension to the front of the school. This drain does not belong to the school but to United Utilities who have been very difficult to 'pin down' with instructions concerning the said drain. Mr. Edwards met with the local man earlier today who is quite happy for them to carry on and has given permission for the drain to be diverted if necessary (this being the worst case scenario). This means that the Architects are now in a position to go out to tender late January, early February, and would hope to appoint a contractor in February, as he understands that LAMPS has to spend the ring-fenced monies before the end of March or lose them. A governor queried how this would be effected, would it be pro-forma invoice or advanced materials purchase as it is illegal to invoice in advance for works not carried out, to protect client. Mr. Edwards said this would be possible. United Utilities were sending someone to trace the path of the drain, Mr. Edwards pointed out that it was approx. 2 metres deep at the bottom end, and it maybe that they would be allowed to build over it, the positioning of the drain in relation to the proposed new build was critical to this decision. If building over it then these sections of drain would be renewed.

The drain comes down from Lindal Moor Cottages, the School, and probably drains School House as well. The contractors Edwards & Elliott would probably go to would be Albions, Sheldons, Lecks and Peter Mawson. After a contractor is appointed then a probable start date would be prior to the summer holidays, with completion aimed for prior to return to school in September. A discussion ensued regarding the children's safety, fire exits etc. if building commenced during term time. The contractor assured the governors that the safety of the children and staff would be paramount and works would be based around this premise. A governor questioned the school's responsibility to carry out risk assessments and obtain method statements from all contractors, Mr. Edwards assured him that this came under the architects umbrella and they would obtain and carry these out. The governor disputed this stating that the school needed to carry out their own. The governor was invited to be instrumental in this process having knowledge of these proceedings. Mr. Edwards said that he would keep the governors informed and left the meeting at 2000hrs.

50. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE

There had been a meeting of the Building & Resources Committee prior to Christmas and the budget was in line with expectations. Salaries were within budget, DGB has not yet received the power bills, but is trying to keep the school warm without wastage in anticipation of the much publicised increases in cost. There are still two months left in this budget year and it is expected that there will be a surplus which has to be earmarked (for the new build) or forfeited. DGB expects the new budget mid-March.

52. STAFFING - CONTRACTS FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

see Confidential Items

53. HEAD TEACHERS PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

see Confidential Items

54. HEALTHY SCHOOLS STANDARD AUDIT

DGB has attended a meeting in Penrith regarding the re-accreditation of the Healthy Schools standard as discussed at the meeting 21.11.05. He informed that previously schools had to opt in whereas it will now be compulsory for every school to have this by 2012. As previously explained the criteria for the standard have now been altered to match the Every Child Matters Initiative. Under the new format an audit has to be carried out with the staff and DGB would like a governor to be present at the meeting. All governors agreed A. Grace to attend the meeting if available.

ACTION: A GRACE

DGB informed the governors that LAMPS is still strong, apart from 'food', and this needs to be worked on. LAMPS can advise parents on what is a healthy snack, S. Simpson has already had a very successful 'workshop' on food in Class 1, when Paul Cropper (a local chef) came in and prepared and cooked food for the children, it is intended to hold other sessions with the School Nurse in all 3 classes. The topic is being covered in the curriculum and a series of assemblies on these issues has also been programmed.

Once the audit is complete, a representative will come into school for the day and talk to the children and parents, DGB would like to do this next term.

A governor enquired about the reintroduction of hot school meals. School dinners had been discontinued because of minimal take-up (down to 1 or 2 at the end). The kitchen was unsuitable for producing meals, this meant buying in a service, which was both costly and complicated. A trial had been run whereby the midday supervisors warmed up dinners brought in from home by the children, but this had been unsuccessful and prevented the staff from supervising the children.

55. INVESTORS IN PEOPLE (I.I.P.) ACCREDITATION

DGB informed that he is almost at the end of the training and has 1 more tutorial session to attend before being able to apply for accreditation in September. A governor enquired as to the costs involved and was informed that it was £500. The governor then enquired what value the

school placed on this initiative and why it had been undertaken. DGB informed that this had been ongoing for some time and perhaps this question should have been asked at the beginning rather than at this late stage. A discussion ensued where it was explained that this was much more than just a plaque for the wall, and stated that it marks when an organisation goes beyond what would normally be expected, i.e. LAMPS has facilities for training students, training T.A.'s, numerous courses for teachers, a valued, well-functioning, committed work force, reflected in the levels of staff attendance within the school. I.I.P. is recognised by OFSTED as a self-evaluations tool. It is also a statement about how the school is run and how they mean to continue, so that any new personnel would carry on that same ethos and forward motion. The majority of governors supported the IIP accreditation.

56. PANDA/FISCHER FAMILY TRUST

The LAMPS PANDA for 2005 had been circulated prior to the meeting for governor evaluation. DGB explained that schools were expected to use data from their PANDA's in their S.E.F.'s, but pointed out that because LAMPS does very well at both KS1 and 2 it is impossible for them to score highly on the 'value added' section of the report; i.e. if a child achieves level 3 at KS1, then they are expected to achieve level 5 at KS2, which then reflects in a zero 'value added' score. Pupils may have done well enough to achieve a Level 6, but this is not catered for, therefore LAMPS high scores at KS2 count for nothing in this category. A discussion ensued - can the governors put into the S.E.F. that this PANDA does not reflect this school?, the value added category was intended to reflect improvements in struggling schools but there is no category to reflect the consistency of schools such as LAMPS, DGB is going to have a meeting with David Jackson (LAMPS School Improvement Officer) to discuss how to tackle this problem and how to phrase this situation on the S.E.F.

DGB explained that the FISCHER FAMILY TRUST is a Charity, which has been left money to be used in the collation/statistical analysis of data regarding target setting, i.e. if a child attains 'x' at 7 years old then they should attain 'y' at 11 years old. It is expected that schools use this data in their S.E.F.'s. A discussion took place where it was pointed out that this method takes no account of personalities/changes of circumstance and that children can experience all kinds of changes which may affect their performance. It was acknowledged that it may be a more useful tool in large primary schools.

57. PLAYTIME SNACKS

This to be carried forward to the next meeting and included as an agenda item.

ACTION C PARTRIDGE

58. LEARNING PLATFORM

DGB advised that this is an initiative set up by the BBC and seen to be the next move in education. Children will have their own IT learning accounts whereby they will have an on-line assessment test, and the computer programme will decide the level of each child and feed back a programme to suit. This will be another tool alongside things like 'Expresso' already in use and will be monitored and used if effective.

59. ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS/MEETING

The Annual Report to Parents will be published during w/c 27.02.06, and the meeting date was set for Thursday 9th March 2006. The Clerk to issue an accompanying letter with the report inviting parents to attend, as last year.

ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

60. ANNUAL REVIEW OF S.E.N. POLICY

A copy had been given to the SEN governor prior to the meeting. All governors agreed item 3.2, bullet point to be added ' - liaising with the SEN governor'. CP to pass to SF for updating.

ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

61. S.E.F.

DGB to clarify PANDA before updating S.E.F.

62. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Various 'actions' were updated, and DGB informed that he had not heard anything back regarding the repair of the boundary wall after the evaluation visit by Client Services & Property Unit/Capita - this needs chasing especially in the light of the forthcoming building work necessitating the use of alternative entrances and exits. ACTION: D BARLOW

63. BETTER WAYS TO SCHOOL

C Humphreys has had discussions with Inspector Roger Mallett, and in his view a reduction in speed limit is unnecessary because of the volume of parked cars at arrival and departure times, which slow traffic down anyway. LAMPS have to write to the Highways Agency to pursue a reduction in speed limit (CH to draft letter), RM offered a speed limit machine outside school. After discussion, it was thought that 'ammunition' could be gathered by contacting other schools and seeing what traffic calming/signage/speed limit reductions they had, and then requesting LAMPS have the same. The Clerk highlighted an article in the Cumbrian Governor offering free playground cyclist training to governors, for children in Years 3 & 4. A discussion ensued, the governors were not entirely sure of the merits of such a scheme, but all agreed CH to pursue to find out more information. ACTION C HUMPHREYS

64. GOVERNOR VISITS - UPDATE

P. Bishop had given a slide show to Class 3 of Brittany in France to supplement their French lessons, and continued his Friday afternoon visits listening to readers etc. He is also organising a photographic exhibition in school, and has organised a competition for the children of their own favourite snaps.

T. Dalziel visits most Friday lunch times for an update. .

65. GOVERNOR TRAINING

A Child Protection Training session has been arranged for the staff/governors/playgroup, as previously mentioned, on Monday 6th February 2006 at 1900hrs.

C. Partridge is booked on Clerks Briefing session on the 8th February 2006.

A. Postlethwaite would like to attend the New Governor training session, and will try and book a place subject to availability.

66. TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT

No formal report for this meeting, but DGB pointed out how keen the T.A.'s are on training sessions and have all attended numerous courses, this is ongoing.

67. SCHOOLS COUNCIL

A questionnaire has been generated by the council to give to other pupils (DGB read the questions to the governors); they will respond accordingly when replies have been received. A governor suggested setting up a small budget for them, DGB said this would be a possibility. The council is due to meet this week.

68. A.O.B.

1. The ARSP (Annual Review of Schools Performance) had been circulated with the agenda, and deemed the school and leadership and management to be 'very effective'. The ARSP was signed by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors to acknowledge receipt.

2. It is hoped that a Spanish Club can be started next term, as about 15 children are interested in joining. The lady who will lead the club lives in Kendal and is trying to organise clubs in other schools in the Ulverston area, on the same day of the week.
3. DGB circulated the LAMPS Professional Development Programme for 2005-6, autumn and spring terms, showing all the staff training.

69. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

See addendum.

70. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 21st March, 2006 - 1900hrs at LAMPS.

The meeting closed at 21:30hrs