

The Clerk requested that governors declare any vested interest in any Agenda item, and asked that completed 'Declaration of Interests' Forms, issued with the agenda be handed in. The form for M. Brown (not present) outstanding - the Clerk to chase and place all forms on file in school.

ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

5. GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The Clerk took nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair in the absence of any nominations being received prior to the meeting. T. Dalziel and S. Fleming nominated themselves to continue in the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Voting took place and the nominees were voted in unanimously. SF confirmed she was happy to continue in the post of Link Governor. Literacy and Numeracy Governors were confirmed as SF and MB respectively. The Clerk informed that SF was the new Community Governor and that an election would be triggered for Parent Governor after the half term, giving parents of the new intake time to settle in. The Clerk advised that she had sent a memo to all support staff asking whether they were interested in the post of Staff Governor (non-teaching/support) vacated by T. Garnett. To date, one positive response has been received - two more responses are awaited before the position can be confirmed.
The Clerk handed the chair to the newly elected Chair, TD.

6. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

A copy was circulated to all present and DGB read through it. The following updates were added: -

Garden - Graham Smith from UVHS was bringing another group of NVQ students to continue work in the garden on Tuesday afternoon, 26.09.06.

Village Website - letter of thanks

ACTION: T DALZIEL

Reading Intervention - LAMPS must support KT on this course (very valuable asset), as she will be going in her own time and Play Group time, therefore LAMPS to cover her Play Group time.

SATS - KS2 results - S Hoekstra to be commended for the extra work she put in with pupils in maths.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE

see Confidential Items

8. SCHOOL PROFILE

This was sent out at the end of last term and although LAMPS was 11th in the country it stated that LAMPS was "broadly average"!! (this is due to the 'value added' anomaly previously explained). There has been no response from the parent body.

9. TARGET SETTING

see Confidential Items

10. GIFTED AND TALENTED REGISTER

This was circulated to all governors. DGB reiterated that a register has to be kept by school not just to cover academic high-flyers but also those children with talents in other areas such as sport and music etc.

11. REVIEW DELEGATION TO HEAD TEACHER/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

A copy of 'Governing Body Decision Planner', published by the LEA had been circulated with the

agenda. Budget delegations were ticked and agreed to continue as in previous years, with approval of the first formal budget plan of each financial year being delegated to the B & R Committee if the timing so demanded. A discussion ensued regarding delegation under various other categories. All governors agreed that this should be brought to the next meeting allowing each governor time to review in detail, and to reinforce the roles and responsibilities of the governing body as a whole. CP to include as an agenda item. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE/
ALL GOVERNORS

The Clerk suggested that the Terms of Reference for each individual committee be circulated to the members of that committee for review and comment at the next meeting, also to circulate the committee member list. All governors agreed to this course of action.

ACTION: C PARTRIDGE/
ALL GOVERNORS

12. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNER/HEAD TEACHER APPRAISAL

DGB explained that the system for head teacher appraisal was in the process of changing - as governors are aware, performance management used to be overseen by an external advisor from Cambridge Educational Associates who have now lost the contract. A system using School Improvement Partners is now being developed and it is expected that by April 2008 all schools will have a School Improvement Partner. However in the interim there will be a gap when schools will be responsible for finding their own consultant to carry out performance management/head teacher appraisal. DGB tried to book Alan James who has done the last two years but he has gone to Spain! DGB then managed to contact Alan Cook, the Head of Arnside School who performed the first 3 appraisals and he is booked for early November.

Performance management for the staff will be carried out next week, a lot of which has already been completed for the threshold exercise.

13. OFSTED UPDATE

Ofsted are trialling a new form of inspection for successful schools which is just one day, DGB thinks that LAMPS will probably fall into this category. The current cycle of inspections is one every three years - LAMPS last inspection was 3 years ago this autumn. After talking to an Inspector/Advisor DGB feels that the chances of one falling in this academic year are small, given that Ofsted are currently short of inspectors.

Also the PANDA has now met its demise and is being replaced by RAISONline which is a collation of new Performance Management targets. The governing body are obliged to carry out an annual review of the Performance Management Policy, but this would seem futile at present as the system is all about to change - all governors agreed that this should be held in abeyance until the new system is up and running. DGB is going on a course in November, by which time Performance Management of DGB and the staff will be complete.

14. S.E.F.

DGB circulated the new SEF which he had worked on in the holiday, incorporating amongst other updates the recent SATs results. DGB asked the governors to review and bring any comments or discrepancies to the next meeting. ACTION: ALL GOVERNORS

15. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The plan was reviewed, discussed and amended/updated as appropriate.

16. SWOT ANALYSIS

See Confidential Items

17. BETTER WAYS TO SCHOOL

All updates had been discussed and minuted under Matters Arising above, no further discussion required. Cycling Proficiency training for Year 6 next year has been booked with

Mrs. P. Edmondson.

18. GOVERNOR VISITS - UPDATE

T. Dalziel will now resume his weekly visit to school.

19. GOVERNOR TRAINING

The Link Governor advised governors of forthcoming courses. A Postlethwaite and the Clerk both advised they were attending the Termly Briefing on 27.09.06 at the Custom House in Barrow. The Clerk advised that the new training courses in the form of current updates were much more useful than the latter topic based courses.

20. TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT

No report for this meeting pending the appointment of the new Staff Governor.

21. SCHOOLS COUNCIL

There has been no meeting of the Schools Council since the beginning of term. DGB advised that he intended to run with the current council for one more term before holding elections, as they had not held office for as long as usual.

22. A.O.B.

1. A governor informed that she had been approached by several parents querying the big percentage increase in swimming fees from September 06. DGB advised that this was because of the vast increases in both the costs of energy and fuel which we are all aware of, being passed on from both the baths and the bus company, and were unfortunately unavoidable. He also added that if he didn't provide some of the tuition and another instructor was required then the fees would be even higher! The same governor also reported that some parents were querying the 'voluntary contributions' requested, stating that they weren't indeed voluntary but obligatory. DGB explained that this was a legacy from the Tories who had introduced this system, and in fact it is explained in the prospectus. It does allow, by its title, anyone who is having difficulties to approach the school for negotiation. A governor added that the government now states that every child must be able to swim before they reach the end of primary school. Most children receive private tuition but there are those who receive school tuition only. From January 07 any pupil who cannot swim 25 metres must be earmarked and given extra lessons.
2. There had been an incident in the school holidays when children had been alarmed by someone lurking in the woods at the top of the playing fields. After discussion, a consensus was reached that whilst there may be some substance to reports, some was rumour and conjecture. The police had been informed and a meeting between the Community Police Officer and the Head teacher arranged for this week. A governor reported that a parent had volunteered to carry out some clearance work in the wooded area to make it safer for the children to play. This was welcomed by the governors and head teacher.
3. A governor mentioned the lengthy and valuable service given to the school by the recently departed Mrs. Garnett, and although staff had bought her a leaving present the governors had not been able to, as it happened quite quickly right at the end of the summer term. All governors agreed to show their appreciation and the Chair volunteered to organise a gift. ACTION: T DALZIEL
4. A governor enquired about the progress of the Spanish lessons mentioned earlier in 2006. DGB informed that he had ascertained interest and replied with numbers, she was trying to arrange tuition at several schools in the area for the same day, but unfortunately had never come back to him. He fears this may be a none-starter.

23. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

See addendum.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 20th November, 2006 - 1900hrs at LAMPS.

Building & Resources Committee - FRIDAY 13th October, 2006 - 1515hrs at LAMPS.

Performance Management Committee Meeting with External Advisor -
MONDAY 6th November, 2006 - 1900hrs at LAMPS

The meeting closed at 21:10hrs