

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD AT LINDAL & MARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ON MONDAY 28TH JANUARY 2008

Present:	D Barlow	P Bishop
	M Brown (from 7.05pm)	J Dalziel
	T Dalziel	S Fleming
	C Humphreys (from 7.15pm)	A Postlethwaite
	V Smith	S Richards

T Dalziel took the Chair.

41. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from A Grace.

42. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

All Governors agreed that they were a true and correct record of the meeting.

43. MATTERS ARISING

26. D Barlow confirmed that the amended Budget Review had been sent to Carlisle.

M Brown arrived at 7.05pm.

3.122. C Humphreys confirmed that she was still awaiting a response from G Wheelhouse regarding road markings outside school, and not yet materialised.

22.38.3 See Confidential Items.

44. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair requested that Governors declare any vested interest in any Agenda item, or, any amendment to their recorded 'Declaration of Interest'. One was received from C Humphreys as her husband has been asked to quote for the replacement of 30 chairs in Class 3 (see Item 49)

ACTION

CH

45. GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The following Governor positions, due for renewal, were discussed:

Chair – T Dalziel

T Dalziel was again re-elected as Chair.

PROPOSED by A Postlethwaite and **SECONDED** by V Smith

Parent Representative – A Grace (Expiry Date of Term of Office 15.12.07)

Letters had been sent out to Parents in relation to the vacancy for a Governor Parent Representative with a closing date of 28th January for nominations for the post. As no nominations have been forthcoming, **all Governors agreed** that the position be offered once again to A Grace.

Teaching Representative – V Smith (Expiry Date of Term of Office 01.01.08)

V Smith has once again offered to continue as Teaching Representative.

C Humphreys arrives at 7.15pm

46. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Copy of above circulated to all present and D Barlow read through it.

47. FINANCIAL REPORT / BUDGET UPDATE

Financial Report – Nothing to report.

Budget Update – D Barlow confirmed that the new financial arrangement (E5) which is replacing the current archaic system (SIMS) is now up and running. First impressions are good with information obtained being more detailed, much more complex, and with the benefit of being available online.

D Barlow confirmed that 12 new pupils are expected to enrol in September 2008. M Brown also stated that 17 “Rising 5’s” were also expected to enrol.

The Building & Resources Committee has requested a breakdown of the hours currently worked by Teaching Assistants; this was circulated.

A policy has been adopted whereby a report is to be produced, each term, showing financial breakdowns of monies contributed from parents, against contributions from the School Budget, in relation to school trips, concerts, etc. Any shortfall is currently paid out of the School Budget.

48. S.E.F.

This has been updated and submitted.

49. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Buildings & Resources

Soft Safety Surface – Now completed. M Brown stated, however, that a puddle appears to be forming in a ‘dip’ in the newly laid surface. This is to be monitored over time.

Garden Development – Mr Barlow had contacted the owner of “Earthly Matters” in connection with the planting of approximately 70 trees (kindly donated) to improve the Garden area.

ICT – Plans are underway to replace the last two remaining Dell Computers.

Replacement of Chairs (Class 3) – D Humphreys (“Teacher Boards” based in Skipton) had been contacted to quote for replacement of the 30 existing chairs in Class 3. (*See Declaration of Interest – Item 44*).

Disabled Access - Work is to be started to improve access from the lower playground area up to the garden area.

Physical Education

Activate – V Smith said she believed that this exercise first thing in the morning (for 15 minutes) had dramatically improved the alertness and concentration of pupils throughout the day.

50. BETTER WAYS TO SCHOOL

D Barlow to update and circulate.

51. GOVERNOR VISITS - UPDATE

There were the following Governor visits:

T Dalziel - visited the school on Friday 25th January.

M Brown - teaching of Recorders to pupils.

P Bishop - visited to listen to pupils’ reading.

52. GOVERNOR TRAINING

A Postlethwaite – to attend ‘Spring Workshop’ at Swarthmoor Hall on 28th February.

DB

53. TEACHING ASSISTANTS' REPORT

There was nothing to report.

54. SCHOOL COUNCIL

Elections for the School Council will take place in due course.

DB

55. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. A letter had been forwarded to us by Moira Swann (Children's Services, Cumbria County Council) from OfSTED, in which we are 1 of 15 schools listed as "outstanding providers" within Cumbria.
2. P Bishop asked that a contribution be made to Cath Partridge (retiring Clerk) to say "Thank You" for all her hard work and efforts. **All Governors agreed.**
3. In light of the current Governor Elections, S Fleming asked the Clerk to send an updated list showing current terms of office expiry dates so that the L.A.M.P.S. website could be updated; this was agreed.
4. Arrangements are currently being set up by Dowdales Primary for pupils in Years 3 & 4 regarding After School Clubs. A "Dance Club" has been scheduled for the Spring/Summer term with activities being held at Burlington School and Askam Village School. However, there was doubt as to how children would get to these events and a minibus may have to be made available. S Fleming suggested that activities should be "sign posted" on the village website to inform parents of forthcoming after school activities.
5. S Fleming asked if the Clerk could email Neil Fleming a copy of the previously approved minutes to enable their publication on the village website; this was agreed.
6. S Fleming asked D Barlow if there would be any interest in "Moodle". A new virtual learning environment website whereby pupils can use various worksheets and quizzes over the internet. At the end, a summary is available showing analyses such as scores and how long they took to complete etc. D Barlow said that he needed more information before embarking along that path.
7. A Postlethwaite raised concerns over an article in "The Observer" on Sunday, 27th January 2008 regarding closure of rural schools by Local County Councils to cut costs. The newspaper stated that small schools with less than 110 pupils would be earmarked for possible closure. This would, of course, make our school highly vulnerable. D Barlow felt that closure would be unlikely as each classroom is fully utilized and, for three consecutive inspections, OfSTED have said that our school gives excellent value for money. He also felt that this would be "penalizing excellence" as they would be closing schools on classroom size whilst ignoring performance.

8. Governors raised concerns as to the speed at which traffic currently pass the school gates. C Humphreys again stated that she was still awaiting a response to her email (first sent back in May 2007) from the Highways Agency regarding road markings.

It was suggested that a speed limit be put forward to the Highways Agency of 20mph running past the school; as Marton already have a speed limit of 20mph, with no school.

It was also mentioned that a new Wind Farm Test Mast is to be erected at Standish Cote, near Marton, and again concern was raised as to the impact of increased volumes in traffic through the village and past the school.

C Humphreys agreed to write again to the County Council asking for a reduction in the current 30mph speed limit to 20mph and also to confirm the proposed route for traffic/lorries visiting the new Wind Farm Test Mast.

CH

9. See Confidential Items.

56. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

See Addendum

57. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 21st April 2008 commencing at 7.00pm at LAMPS.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm.