

52. 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.

53. GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The Clerk informed that LAMPS again had a full complement of governors and introduced M. Brown, the new Parent Governor.

54. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

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

55. BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

The Chair gave a progress report on the current state of play regarding the proposed school extension. Frank Edwards of Edwards & Elliott Quantity Surveyors is in charge of managing the contract. TD has had to chase for some response, but assured the governors this is due to workload rather than inefficiency. The planning application has been filed this week (no problems are foreseen), it will then go out to tender to 3 contractors and Mr. Edwards is confident the whole thing can be completed during the summer holidays. TD/DGB explained that œ10K of the money must be allocated by the end of March.

56. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE (ARSP)

This had been circulated with the agenda. DGB announced that it was a good one! He was also in receipt of a letter from the Senior School Inspector, Catherine Pink which was very complimentary. A governor queried the Key Stage 2 decline in trend over time for English. DGB informed that this reflected a slight dip in the writing section of the SAT, where the test had altered from story writing (which the children were used to) to report writing. The ARSP was signed by the Chair and the Head as required.

57. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUDGET UPDATE

DGB did the accounts about a week ago and everything is in good order. He was also pleased to report that salaries, being the biggest spend was going to be within budget. He informed that a committee meeting would need to be held this term to go through the books, as the budget has to be submitted by the end of March (a Friday afternoon was suggested as an alternative to the usual evening session if it suited committee members). Date to be agreed.

ACTION: DGB/TD/PB/CH

58. PREPARATION, PLANNING & ASSESSMENT (P.P.A.)

Over the last two years the government has been instigating schemes to ensure that teachers are able to spend the vast majority of their time actually teaching, and also allowing them time for planning and marking. This has not yet impacted on LAMPS because the first phase, which had to be in place by September 2003, was to ensure that teachers were not carrying out bulk photocopying or collecting money etc. LAMPS staff did not carry out these tasks. The second phase, to be implemented by September 2004 was more relevant to secondary schools, whereby teachers could not be asked to cover more than a certain amount of colleagues absenteeism; this was to be covered by supply staff over a certain limit. However by September 2005, Phase 3 must be implemented whereby all teachers have to receive 10% of class contact time for P.P.A. DGB has calculated that this is a total of 2 hours 20 minutes each, every week for himself, Mrs. V. Smith and Mrs. S. Simpson at a cost of œ16-20K per annum (cost of supply cover). DGB recently attended a meeting held to discuss this topic at Abbey House Hotel. Rather than being helpful if it was felt that not enough information was available i.e. it is not known whether any funding will be available, draft policy not yet available. This led to patronising comments such as 'look upon it as a challenge', which were

met with derision from the head teachers and the DfES/LEA Representatives were given a hard time. DGB has looked at some of the things which would count as release time with Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Simpson - Maths Games on Wednesday mornings can run with teaching assistants releasing VS and SS for one hour each, while DGB conducts SATS preparation with Yr. 6. VS and SS can swap cover for R.E. and Music giving some more time. The nett effect is that they would each be owed 35 minutes per week, which could be banked and used in blocks at home. DGB also has to find another « day 'Leadership Time', as this must now be a minimum of 1 day per week. It is very difficult to draft anything concrete at present until the draft policy arrives, or until it is known whether any funding is available; then a plan must be formulated, policy adopted, and a timetable drawn up to budget for and implement by September 2005.

T. Dalziel left the meeting and the chair was taken by S. Fleming.

59. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

See Confidential Items.

60. OFSTED - CHIEF INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORT

DGB was delighted to inform the governors that he had received a letter from David Bell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, signed in person, congratulating LAMPS on being identified in his Annual Report as a "particularly successful school". David Bell offered his 'warmest congratulations' and wished them to be passed on to DGB's staff, governors and pupils. This is to be kept under embargo until 02.02.05, when the report is published. DGB added his own thanks once again to all involved in the last Ofsted Inspection, and informed that he intended to copy the letter to parents, conveying his thanks to them for the support they had given. The governors all agreed this was praise indeed and offered their congratulations.

61. OFSTED - PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

Further to the previous item, the governors were informed that there will be a new page of the Ofsted website devoted to Particularly Successful Schools. LAMPS is 1 of only 2330 included in the database over the last 10 years. Also in 10 years only 36 schools in Cumbria had been included, and LAMPS had been included twice! - quite an achievement. A governor enquired whether it would be nice to hold some kind of celebration for the children to mark this achievement, this was perceived as being a good idea, and DGB suggested putting it to the School Council for ideas. All governors agreed to this course of action.

62. POLICY FOR MUSIC

This had been circulated with the agenda for prior perusal. DGB enquired whether there were any issues for debate. All governors agreed with the content of the policy, PROPOSED: C. HUMPHREYS, SECONDED: M. BROWN.

63. ANNUAL PARENTS MEETING

The Annual Report to Parents is due to be published in February, and the Annual Parents Meeting also due to be held in the same month. The Clerk informed the governors that there are 3 criteria when an Annual Meeting does not need to be held, two of which are not applicable this year and the third one was read to the governors.

'The governing body has given to parents with its annual report, a notice asking parents to respond within not less than 7 days requesting that the governing body hold the Annual Parent's Meeting and the parents of fewer than 15 registered pupils responded.' A discussion took place and all governors agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to be sent with the report, which should fully explain this clause. ACTION: C PARTRIDGE

64. BETTER WAYS TO SCHOOL

DGB stated the luminous jackets had been received and distributed and a good supply was also being held in school. He is pleased to see so many of them being used. CH informed that she

had been trying to contact Gary Thomas regarding improvements to :

- a) the 'signage' outside school by moving them further up and down the hill to give an earlier warning to passing traffic.
- b) Redoing the red road surface, which she had been informed wasn't an expensive job, as it is now rather faded.
- and c) Making improvements to the visibility of the speed limit sign which is often obscured by hedge.

So far, he has not returned her calls.

A brief discussion ensued and governors suggested that a letter was written on LAMPS letterhead regarding these issues, which would be harder to ignore and could be followed up quickly if necessary. ACTION:C HUMPHREYS

65. GOVERNOR VISITS UPDATE

P. Bishop visits school most Friday afternoons listening to readers and offering help as required. He had attended the 'scenarios' written by the younger children for the puppets they had made during the recent workshops.

A Grace and C Humphreys will attend the forthcoming Lego Workshops.

66. GOVERNOR TRAINING

The Link Governor read through the courses available locally for the next quarter. There were none considered particularly relevant. DGB informed that he had arranged an 'in-house' course on Disability Discrimination for the 28th February 2005, which he highlighted was a particularly contentious issue in terms of litigation for governing bodies. Please make a diary note of this date, a reminder letter will be sent in due course. ACTION: ALL

67. TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT

No report for this meeting.

68. SCHOOLS COUNCIL

Elections had been held and two pupils from each year group had been selected to sit on the council. Anyone who had previously served on the council was also eligible to be re-elected as it was felt some previous experience would aid the smooth running of the council. Sam and Rebecca (Year 6) were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The new councillors were taking proceedings onboard and had lots of ideas; there is now a suggestion box and their first initiative was to ask for any unwanted clothing to be given to an appeal in aid of the recent Tsunami Disaster.

69. A.O.B.

1. D Barlow informed the governors that he had recently received an edict from the Primary Heads Association (PHA) stating that pupils second names should not be used in newspaper articles, or other publications including websites etc. Last week DGB was approached by the North West Evening Mail regarding making a feature of the letter from David Bell congratulating LAMPS as a 'particularly successful school'. However due to a new editorial policy, the Evening Mail refuse to publish photographs of school children unless they have the right to use both the Christian and surnames of those children. DGB explained to the reporter that he would not be allowed to take any photographs under these circumstances. He also took the trouble to write to the Editor explaining that under the Data Protection Act he has to consult with parents regarding the publication of any photos, and also the edict from the PHA. He further sited an example where a 13/14 year old girl he used to teach had been stalked as a result of her picture and name being published in a newspaper. The Editor refuses to budge on this issue. All governors agreed this was incredible in the current climate of child protection issues. A debate ensued and it was agreed that when DGB copied the Ofsted letter to parents, he would inform them of the situation explaining why there

would be no photographs appearing, and asking for feedback either to himself or directly to the Evening Mail. ACTION: D BARLOW
The governors all agreed that a letter penned by DGB signed by TD, should be sent from them to the Evening Mail expressing their dismay and disbelief at their policy. ACTION: DGB/TD

2. A governor had passed some of the school's diary dates to Aspects for publication.
3. DGB had been approached by the Residents Association, who are planning a village litter pick and wondered whether the school children would be interested in playing a part. The governors thought this was a good idea, as long as they were provided with the correct equipment and instruction. A governor did mention the hazard of dog fouling would have to be addressed.

70. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

see addendum

71. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th March, 2005 - 1900hrs at LAMPS.

The meeting closed at 20:15hrs

69. A.O.B.

4. DGB was in receipt of a letter from a LAMPS 'old boy' (now living in Preston) who had attended the school from 1919-1926 and who had read about the schools successes and Ofsted results. DGB had replied thanking him for his interest and suggesting he visit the schools website. Mr. Barker (in his nineties) had then phoned LAMPS and subsequently arranged to visit the school in the summer, whilst visiting family in the area.