

minutes



Meeting EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING STANDING
SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 7th September 2004 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Stella Smedley (Chair)

M Suthers OBE (Vice-Chair)

	Chris Baron	A	Mrs Nellie Smedley
	Yvonne Davidson		Richard Robinson
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Brian Smith
	E Llewellyn-Jones		Andy Stewart
A	Tom Pettengell		Yvonne Woodhead
A	Peter D Prebble		

Statutory Added Members

Mr K Daly
Mr D Richards JP
Ms P Burbridge (Parent Governor)
Ms L Wooding (Parent Governor)

Non-Voting Co-optees

	Mr L Jefferies	(Teacher Trades Unions)
A	Mrs G Lane	(School Governors)
A	Mr N Lewis	(F E sector)
A	Mr A McAllister	(Ethnic Minority Communities)
	Dr B Ramsey	(School Governors)
	Ms L Regan	(Teacher Trades Unions)
	Mr J Wilson	(Head Teachers)
	Vacancy	(Head Teachers)
	Vacancy	(Teacher Trades Unions)

Others invited to attend

A Mr R Sydes (Support Staff Unions)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor V H Dobson
Councillor M Storey
Philip Brooks (Teacher Trades Unions)

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd June 2004 having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Peter D Prebble
“ Mrs Nellie Smedley
Mr N Lewis
Mrs G Lane

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Mr B Ramsey declared a personal interest in agenda item No.4 – Post OFSTED Action Plan: Progress with actions for gifted and talented pupils.

INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Stella Smedley welcomed the new Parent Governor representatives to the Select Committee, as well as Christian Gilbert, Scrutiny Officer, to the Select Committee.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

John Cornforth, Head of Divisional Support Services introduced the report that informed the Select Committee of the progress on the review of education transport policy that had been completed earlier in the year.

In doing so he reminded the Select Committee of the recommendations and drew attention to a number of the findings referred to at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Smedley congratulated the Ad Hoc Select Committee on the piece of work and acknowledged the complexity of the work given that the local and national circumstances were constantly changing. The Select Committee were invited to comment on the report and to consider the setting up of a study group to keep the policies under review.

Councillor Heptinstall expressed his concern with regard to the proposed short-term arrangements for the Bluecoat and Emmanuel Schools and to the limiting of free transport and urged that the matter be looked at sympathetically.

He also asked that the school bus policy be put into place as soon as possible given the current situation in the Bramcote area with Trent buses. Mr Hudson, Group Manager, Passenger Transport, explained that the Authority was working with all of the bus operators on crime and disorder on public transport and that it was also a national problem. He added that the introduction of CCTV on some of the Nottingham City Transport buses had seen a marked improvement in behaviour. The Select Committee was also reminded that the LEA would be examining to what extent schools discipline codes supported the mainstream school transport policy.

The Select Committee noted the report and agreed that a School Transport Study Group is set up to keep policies under review.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEA POST-OFSTED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN: PROGRAMME WITH ACTIONS RELATING TO GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

John Morris, Inspector for the Advisory and Inspection Services introduced the report that sought the Select Committee's consideration on the actions taken to improve the provision in support of gifted and talented pupils.

In doing so he explained that good progress had been made in delivering the planned actions and in improving provision for gifted and talented pupils. A steering group had been established and a new policy drafted that would be sent for consultation with schools in the autumn term. To analyse the planning of support already in place, schools had already completed a detailed questionnaire. In response to a question about the response level, Mr Morris said that a response rate of 55% was a fairly typical figure for this type of exercise. He would be looking in more detail at a sample of 29 out of the 200 responses received. The Select Committee recognised that in terms of the identification of gifted and talented pupils this should go beyond academic ability and include other disciplines such as sports, arts, drama and music.

Councillor Storey felt that it was necessary to campaign for smaller class sizes to assist in the recognition of these pupils.

The Select Committee noted the report and it was agreed that a further progress report be presented to the Select Committee in 6 months time.

REVIEW OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY GROUP: PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor E Llewellyn-Jones introduced his report on the progress made with the recommendations of the Recruitment and Retention Study Group.

In terms of recommendation two, he pointed out that a further piece of work was planned within secondary schools to determine the subjects which are being taught by teachers aged over 45 in order for the Authority to plan for possible future shortages.

With regard to recommendation five, he reported that an exit survey had been created with an accompanying database. He indicated that 341 surveys had been sent out to teachers who would not be returning in September and the results were expected to be ready in October. He explained that the survey would be conducted three times a year to correspond with the end of term and resignation dates. In relation to this he asked the Select Committee to consider setting up a group to look at pupil behaviour in relation to retention.

Councillor Stella Smedley thanked Councillor Llewellyn-Jones for the excellent piece of work.

The Select Committee noted the progress report and agreed to setting up a group to look at pupil behaviour in relation to retention.

ADDED MEMBERS ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Councillor Stella Smedley introduced the report that noted the appointment of 2 voting members and asked the Select Committee to consider a request received from the teacher trade unions in relation to non-voting members.

The Select Committee noted the appointment of two voting added members and agreed that teacher trade unions be invited to nominate representatives to attend meetings as observers able to speak with the consent of the Chair on occasions when the named non-voting added member is unable to attend.

KEY STAGE 2 AND 3 RESULTS – ORAL UPDATE

Di Morton, Assistant Director (Resources and Development) reported orally on the published examination results for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, which the committee noted.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

CHAIR

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