**Liverpool Governors' Forum**

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th May 2012

**Present:** Joe Hartley (Chair), Cynthia Carmichael-CMC (Secretary), Nick King-NK(Vice-Chair), Angela Fulton -AF (Treasurer), Cliff Barton-CB, Andy Chadwick-AC, Kathy Desmond-KD, Sue Griffiths-SG, Dave Cadwallader-DC, Clive Jervis-CJ, Jeanette Murphy-JM, Margaret Cummings and Brenda Hoatson from Childwall Sports College

Paul Fillis from Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board

**1 Apologies;** Paul Bannon from Calderstones, Frank Hilliard, Frank McFarlane, Sharon Pearson

**2 Declaration of financial interest.**

No change

**3 Notice of any other business.**

None

**4 Minutes of meeting** held in April were agreed with three amendments.

**5 Matters arising**.

 None

**6 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board.**

 Paul Fillis the LA’s designated officer on LSCB presented the committee with a report on the

 work of the LSCB. FM represents LGF on the board. It is a statutory body but relies for funding

 on the financial contributions from all member agencies. Working Together to Safeguard

 Children makes it clear that schools should be involved in the work of the LSCB.

 In order for all local authority maintained schools to meet their statutory duties to safeguard and

 promote the welfare of children, the LSCB are requesting financial contributions from all chools.

 Secondary schools to contribute £1,000 per annum

 Special schools to contribute £500 per annum

 Primary schools to contribute £500 per annum

 This financial contribution is requested for financial year 2011-2012

 If Liverpool schools cannot make the commitment to support LSCB financially they will be

 unable to maintain their support and services for schools at the current level.

 There are at present more responsibikities being put on the board without funding.

 There are various sub groups on the board including –

 Child death overview panel

 Multi-agency training

 Policy and procedures group

 Critical incident and serious case review

 LGF feel that if schools were to contribute it should be on a per capita basis

 On this basis it would be between £1 and £2 per child.

 Paul Fillis can be contacted at paul.fillis @liverpool.gov.uk

**7 LSF Update**

An extraordinary meeting took place last week to discuss LSF response to the DfE funding reforms.

CB said resulting from discussions at last meeting of LGF a request had been made through the clerk for the Liverpool Schools Forum to create a working party to discuss changes to its constitution . Waiting to see if on agenda at next meeting.

JH asked for a quick feedback.

If after AGM no change then whistleblow to DfE.

On 29.05.2012 there is to be an all-day meeting on funding formula to be instituted in October.

Consultation with schools will take place probably starting in July with response by September.

**8 Finance and membership**

 AF Reported that no more schools had paid their subscriptions. The total remains at 30

 There is now a balance of £1,784-35 in the bank before expenses paid..

 NGA which had previously sent an invoice for £175 at £5 each for 33 schools had sent an

 amended invoice for a further 50p per school.

 Although they had been sent a form updating committee membership details, new members

 have not yet received copies of Governing Matters.

**9 Job evaluation and equal pay**

 Liverpool is proposing to change guidelines on job evaluation and equal pay especially for

 support staff in November. This could cause serious financial problems for schools who have

 already set their budget for 2012/3 .With one school for example it would work out at an extra

 £20,000 this year and £60,000 for a full year. LA officers have been asked by

 the primary heads to call an extra-ordinary meeting to achieve a satisfactory outcome by the end

 of May. Although the idea was in a government Green Paper it has not become law and

 Liverpool is the only authority trying to instigate it.

**10 LGF offer to members**

 JH and DC have had a discussion on the possibility of producing a leaflet to send to all LA

 schools extolling the benefits of being a member of LGF.

 a) LGF provides a single voice for governors in Liverpool..

 a survey carried out by NGA found that among the groups that responded

 70% charge a membership fee

 There is a range between £5 and £95 per school

 £24 is the average fee

 Half collect the money themselves

 the other half have the money collected on their behalf by their LEA

There are varying grants from some local authorities.

CB suggested that JH write to the AEO and ask him to support a request for central funding.

 87% of governor forums have representatives on LA committees.

 56% hold annual conferences

 53% send out termly newsletters-this would need to be done electronically.

 51% hold briefing sessions.

 49% offer a help and advice service.

 JH Asked DC if he would ask Chairs to opt out if they did not want LGF to have their email

 address

 JH will try to put together a list of facilities we would offer.

**8 Website**

 No decision on future of website hosting.

 Members asked for possible hosts.

**9 Expenses.**

 The agreed expenses for Chair's attendance at NGA Chairs Conference in Nottingham on

 Saturday 28th.April and secretary’s expenses were paid.

**10**  **Date of future meetings**

 Tuesday, 12th.June, 2012

 Tuesday, 10th.July, 2012