**Liverpool Governors’ Forum**

Minutes of committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2015

Present: Kathy Desmond (Chair), David Blythe (Hon Secretary), Angela Fulton (Hon. Treasurer), Cliff Barton, Dave Cadwallader, Cynthia Carmichael, Andy Chadwick, Mary Donohue, Mark Rea, Pauline Warrington, Joe Hartley (Clerk), and visitor Howard Harris,

**1 Apologies:**  Lea Cranny, Frank McFarlane, Clive Jervis, Henry Mooney, Avril O’Brien,

|  |
| --- |
| **Action**  .  KD to liaise with AF for this purpose. |

**2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

No change.

**3 Minutes of June meeting**

Already approved by email and posted on website.

**4 Matters Arising**

Item 12: Conference on Head Teacher Well-being. MD reported on the afternoon session. Not enough SEN places are currently provided: there are only 76 across the city. Colette O’Brien announced that there would be ten centres each with eight places. Clarification was sought as to whether this meant an additional eighty places or merely an additional four. It seems that this was not forthcoming. There was discussion as to why private providers could not be involved rather than relying on schools that have room. If a school applies for say, ten places, it has to be put to the consortium for approval if schools could not work with other organisations. Colette O’Brien gave a presentation, but much still needs clarification.

Committee discussion included the disparity in staff/pupil ratio between different schools; the difficulty arising if a child is moved, when the original school may have used pupil premium (for example) for an extra member of staff and therefore the funding cannot move with the child.

There were no other matters arising.

As the clerk had received only two emails approving the June minutes, it was agreed by all present that in future, after circulation of minutes by email, absence of comment by a set deadline would constitute approval.

**5 Membership and Finance**

Bank balance stands at £2049.20 The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that it was necessary to update authorised signatories of the account. KD is to replace JH.

**6 Liverpool Learning Partnership**

* KD had already emailed her notes on the meeting of the All Learners group to the committee, in addition to an LLP document concerning Liverpool Counts. A Task Group has been established to oversee this project but it was thought that given the difficulties of the work involved it might be preferable to have separate groups for the primary and secondary phases.
* KD reported that she had raised concerns on behalf of governors concerning the process for the appointment of a new CEO of LLP. It is felt that Elaine Rees will make an excellent CEO.  It is the manner of the appointment that was open to question. KD felt that in the search for fairness, there had been some loss of humanity.
* Schools have reported that reading levels have improved as a result of the City of Readers project.
* A report by DB on the *Learners who need more* meeting had already been distributed.

**7 Liverpool Schools Forum**

MD and MR reported that there had been discussion of a £2½m underspend by the City Council. The Council had wished to keep it in reserve because of uncertainty about government funding intentions, but head teachers felt it should be distributed for use by schools. It now seems that half may be distributed and half kept in reserve.

There has been agreement on facilities time for TUs. Unions had pressed for more

|  |
| --- |
| DC to email final versions of card and flyer to committee for approval before printing.  KD to write letter of invitation and email it to DC for distribution.  KD, CC (&DB?) to attend NGA regional meeting on Wednesday 7th October |

time for any member on the national executive of a union, but schools felt the time

already agreed should be used. If extra time is really needed there is a possibility that it could be funded by the City Council.

CB reported that the Formula Funding group was still waiting for funding proposals from the DFE. Normally consultation has to take place and decisions made by September /October. Perhaps we will continue as before for the coming year, and the government will make proposals for the next four-year period.

**8 Twitter Account and Website**

KD had reported a problem with the Twitter link on the Website. It was checked during the meeting and found to be working. HH raised concerns that material tweeted could be uploaded to YouTube breaching safeguarding rules. It was pointed out that all schools will have strict policies concerning their Twitter accounts and the use of YouTube.

DB presented a report on the Twitter account from AO: *We now have 84 followers, initially mostly schools, but increasingly individual teachers and governors. Most re-tweets were from articles I re-tweeted from ACAS regarding time you are entitled to for school governance and an OFSTED report regarding performance of the early year’s sector. School Improvement, NGA and DfE seem to be popular re-tweets too. I shall continue to endeavour to scan each day and tweet what I think is appropriate / interesting.*

**9 Flyers and Business Cards**

Having done the preliminary work AO wished to pass this on because of holidays. DC agreed to oversee the final preparation and printing of cards and flyers. It was agreed to remove the Liver bird logo to make clear LGF’s independence of the LA.

**10 Planning AGM**

AO has contacted the guest speaker. KD will write a letter of invitation to all chairs of governors which will be emailed by DC. Governors will be asked to indicate their intention to attend by contacting the Hon. Secretary by email or phone.

**11 LGF Conference in October**

A venue had been decided but after some discussion it was felt that attendance may be higher than expected. KD will visit the venue to establish its suitability. We need some indication of likely numbers.

There was some discussion of suitable topics to include in the conference relating to sources of stress for head teachers, and the selection of suitable speakers. Nick Small, cabinet member for education will attend our September meeting and will be invited to speak at the conference. The LGF document on relationships between head teachers and governors could be useful for discussion at the conference.

Discussion of this item led to further discussion of governance, not relevant to the conference. It was felt that LGF should give thought to the relationship between governors and business and the need to recruit more business people as governors.

**13 NGA**

Invitations to the regional meeting in October have been received, but as yet no venue has been decided. KD and CC will attend. One other place is available.

**14 Dates and venues of future meetings**

Tuesday 22nd September at Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Primary School, South Drive

L15 8JL

Tuesday 20th October at Our Lady’s Bishop Eton Catholic Primary School, 85 Green Lane, Liverpool L18 2EP

AGM Thursday 12th November at Everton FC

Tuesday 15th December at The Beacon School, Northumberland Terrace, Hayworth Street entrance, L5 3QG

Tuesday 19th January 2016 )

Tuesday 16th February 2016 ) Venues to be decided

\*Feb 16 is in half term: we may have to change this date.

The meeting closed at 11:50