

THE GOVERNING BODY OF STILE COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held at 7.00 pm at the School on Thursday, 7 December 2006.

PRESENT

Mr P C Webb (Chairman), Mrs J Clough, Mrs M E Donaldson, Mrs G M Goodswen, Mrs H L O'Sullivan, Mrs K E Palmer, Mr G V J Pratt.

In Attendance

Mrs S Ellison (Minute Clerk)
Mrs M Rogers (Deputy Head Teacher)

581. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P M Shelton (consent), Mrs H Newby (consent), Miss J Gill (consent), Ms J M Gibson (consent), Ms A L Kenworthy (consent).

There were no declarations of interest.

582. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following item was notified to be brought under Any Other Business:

- ◆ Teacher James Lewis was invited to give a presentation on the capabilities of the "whiteboard"
- ◆ Mr Pratt had stated he wished to discuss School League Tables
- ◆ Ms Rogers would give the Governors an update on the Eco-School

583. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2006

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 5 October 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Minute 562 (b)

That the Staffing Committee also include the Chair, Vice-Chair and Head Teacher.

584. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

585. ITEMS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SEF / APPROVE THE SEF (Minute 577 refers)

It had been stated that the Head Teacher had distributed changes and updates to the SEF. Part 1 had been completed. It had been stated that the SEF was 25 pages in total and would be sent out accordingly when all of the sections had been updated. The Governors had agreed and approved the measure.

586. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Committees.

587. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT(Minute 566 refers)

This matter was deferred to the next meeting as it had been stated that the assessment was “in house” this year.

588. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs Goodswen spoke to her report, which had been tabled. She made particular reference to the following matters:

(a) Class Numbers

The Head Teacher had stated that the numbers of children on roll was increasing in lower school, which may have been a result of local new housing. The ratio of boys to girls in some classes had also been raised (boys being the greater number).

(b) School Meals

The Head Teacher had stated that a total of 97 children had a school meal and 42 brought their own sandwiches.

(c) Special Educational Needs

The School had 7 children with Statements, 5 for behavioural and 2 sensory. However it had been stated that a number of children were giving cause for concern. One child had been awaiting a statement and another had been put forward for an assessment by a psychologist

(d) Extra Curricular Activities

The Head Teacher had outlined the following areas which were being provided: football sessions for girls; guitar and African drumming; a modern dance club; table tennis; cross country events (in which the lower school were particularly successful) and an art and animation club.

(e) Visitors

Dick Palfrey, School Contact Officer, had been in School to hold the “Single Conversation” with the Chair and Head Teacher. From this the Chair had asked the Governors to approve the following targets:

English	80%
Mathematics	80%
Science	100%

The Chair had stated that this year's achievements were:

English	76%
Mathematics	84%
Science	96%

The Governors had all agreed to the proposed targets.

(f) Staffing

The Head Teacher reported that the School had advertised for 2 part-time support assistants, due to the increased number of children who had funding through a statement with Special Educational Needs. Joanne Mabbley had successfully completed her induction year in July.

Mrs Goodswen was thanked for her report.

589. BUDGET (Minute 567 (i) refers)

The Head Teacher had tabled a report which highlighted available and actual spending. It had been stated that Mrs Sowerby managed the budget exceptionally well and she had expressed that she was content the budget was running to target.

It had been stated that funds for full time teaching staff was on track, however Kirklees had an unusual way of heading funds and so funds were available but under other areas.

An overspend had been declared on supplies and services, however, this had been due to break-ins and the reimbursement being paid into income.

590. GOVERNOR TRAINING AND GOVERNOR VISITS

Mr Pratt and Mrs Shelton had attended the Safeguarding Children Presentation on 14 October 2006. Mr Pratt had given an overview of the session and made copies of the literature available to any Governors who wished to read it.

591. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

It had been stated by Mrs Goodswen that the one child (who was looked after) had been doing very well and was due to return home in January 2007.

592. TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A TEMPORARY GOVERNING BODY FOR NEW SCHOOL

The Chair had expressed his concern about the need for decisions to start being made with regard to the new school. As such a new legal body should be put in place.

Mrs Goodswen had also expressed concern and felt many decisions so far had been with regard to the "building" of the school and not the actual practicalities of operation. It had been advised that a Temporary Body would be formed; however the proposal had to go to Cabinet for agreement and so the Governors felt the process needed to move with more pace.

593. EDUCATIONAL VISITS

It had been stated that a local Mosque would be visited as part of the RE curriculum.

A planned trip to Saltaire to discover social housing had been approved by the Governors. The date was to be agreed.

594. ANY OTHER BUSINESS(a) Eco School

Mrs Rogers had attended an Eco meeting to develop the local tennis courts on Dawson Road. Children had also attended to offer their ideas and it had been proposed that one court be kept for tennis; one court as a community garden with an allotment; one for an orchard near the old people's home and one to be left as a wild life area.

It had been stated that access was a problem but this would be discussed at the next meeting on 20 January 2007.

It had also been stated that the School would be going for the Silver Eco award which the Governors had given their approval to and supported.

(b) League Tables

Mr Pratt had stated that the Huddersfield Daily Examiner had presented the league table data but not included the Value Added element, as this illustrated that the School had achieved within the top 5% of schools.

Mr Pratt had offered to write to the Huddersfield Daily Examiner to highlight the benefits; the Governors had approved. It was suggested that Caroline Gruen, Head of Learning (School Effectiveness) was also copied in on the letter.

(c) White Board Presentation

Mr Lewis had given an excellent presentation to the Governors demonstrating the capabilities of the Interactive White Board. He had given numerous examples of how the technology had been applied in class, and ensured the pupils all participated. Mrs Goodswen had stated that the White Boards had made a huge difference to the quality of learning and teaching in the School.

The Governors had raised the health and safety question as to whether the bulbs in the light boxes were a hazard for the teaching staff. Mr Lewis had responded that teachers rarely stared into the light and a benefit to the White Board was that staff could sit at their desk, observe the classroom and operate the White Board without being affected by the beam.

The Governors had all thanked Mr Lewis for his informative presentation, and supported the continued use of such an excellent teaching tool.

595. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the next meetings of the Governing Body be held at 7.00 pm at the School on:

Thursday, 15 February 2007
Thursday, 10 May 2007

596. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY

RESOLVED: That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the School.