

The Boston Grammar Schools Federation
 Record of a Meeting of the Governing Body
 18th May 2010 at Boston Grammar School

Meeting commenced at: 6.10pm the COG and Mr. Marsh corrected an oversight in the school budget figures. The correction stated that overall a fraction of a third (4/12) of the budget is part of next year; therefore the budget as seen is actually lower by a considerable sum of fifty thousand pounds, with a resultant reduction of ninety thousand pounds. The figures were explained and the COG suggested the budget now corrected be proposed for re-acceptance:-

- (6.15) JW proposed JMCh seconded- all agreed
- (6.16) reacceptance of the budget JMCh proposed LS seconded-all agreed

Present: Mr. P. Bosworth COG, Mrs. L. Storry, Mr. G. Cook, Mr. M. Worrall (VCOG), J. Wardell, Mr. B. Gosling, Mr. J. McHenry, Mrs. C. Ellis, Mr. B. Pycock, Mr. A Elmer
 K KELLY
 - 9
 In Attendance: Mrs. J Thornalley and Mr. Paul Marsh

1. Absent/ Apologies: E.Thomas, C. Hamshaw, C. Campion, R. Piggins, L. Hammond, J. Tryner - 6

(2. Minutes of the meeting 27th April 2010

Mrs. Storry enquired as to progress made regarding the partnership governor Mr. Elmer discussed an email and presentation from Mr. Breckon given to Haven High.

COG had received no reply from Mr. Breckon to an email he had sent but understood Mr. Breckon requires a meeting with the COG and VCOG wrt BSF. A governor suggested Mr. Breckon should pay heed to the wishes of the GB and not the LA's.

Mr. Gosling, had information from Mrs. Bradwell which suggested the decision concerning the funding may be known within a week.

VCOG remarked the funding may indeed be in doubt - according to the DCSF Mr. Pycock wryly commented the money was a "pipe dream." Many governors wondered if that would be the case. Other schools had not received their award even 3 years down the road from being notified.

- (6.25) COG spoke regarding the staffing budget, the staffing structure and the SEF for each school. These would be brought to the GB once completed by the acting HT's

3. Matters Arising

- (6.30) the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Budget Approval

This was signed earlier.

5. Clerk's Applications

Mr. Gosling and Mr. Cook volunteered to review the applications for clerk to the GB of which there were thirteen in total - chair to arrange a meeting soon.

6. Y6-7 boys entry

- (6.35) The "Going to Schools in Lincolnshire" Booklet entry for BGSF schools was discussed. Mr. Marsh referred to somewhat contradictory replies from Dick Pike The Open Evening for Y6 and Y7 boys had provided an idea of entry figures for each school next academic year.

BGSF School/ Year group	Y6	Y7 (into Y8 in Sept)
BGS	39	30
BHS	3	15

- Mr. Marsh regretted the recent loss of four of these boys to other schools.
- (6.37) The appeals figures were requested and discussed. These are 19 of which 13 were successful resulting in 3 pupils added to the two schools thus far.
- (6.40) For Y5, there had been a request for information as to the wording in the "Going to Schools in Lincolnshire" Booklet. There followed a discussion regarding the options available once the requested FOI was transferred. It was also said that Mr. Breckon had stated he was unaware that the chosen site for the re-build was BGS at the September 09 mtg he attended with P Duxberry, raised several governors' eyebrows. Both Mr. Elmer and Mr. Pycock agreed Mr. Breckon was aware of the preferred site a long time prior to the meeting and certainly prior to the 23rd March 2010.
- (6.45) Mr. Gosling raised the question of funding for this year. Mr. Marsh re-iterated the adjustment in the post-16 funding criteria.
- (6.53) The lowered funding available for the boys school was discussed. It was thought that the lowered funding is a direct result of being forced into co-ed status and the resultant poor publicity coupled with the forcing of the co-ed status through against the GB's wishes by the LCC. There was also much discussion about the role played by the ex Head. There was agreement that the funding reduction incurred through a reduced intake at the BGS, and the Federated schools lowered income - as a whole, should be met by the council. Further discussion followed which included staffing; expected differences of opinion between Mr. Breckon and the GB; and expected support from the Conservative councillors.
- (6.55) Mr. Pycock warned the GB of the enormity of the cut back in funding nationally (£185,000,000).
- (6.56) A staff governor expressed the need for urgency to advertise and market the schools. Here was also discussed the option of saving funds and not using the NFER process that the consortium administers. Also we should debate the school making it's own arrangements for the 11+ (like Caistor) and fully review the schools handling of its admission arrangements including reviewing the lack of local primary Head Teacher appeals. This move was introduced, led and changed by the consortium and its authority to change that was questioned. There are serious questions about the decisions taken - without the GB of BGSF's involvement - by the Consortium. It is not an official public body and a full examination into the decision / minutes / membership and costs will be carried out. A time frame to look at the consortium and NFER arrangements was requested. Selective education should be offered to capable children with above average ability, a governor concluded and BGSF wants those children in the school. Indeed we have a remit to provide the opportunity for all children with the right ability in Boston region to realise their full potential through access to the selective Grammar school, academic route. Governors were aware that the school is legally responsible for its own admission arrangements and it was thought that the consortium membership was not necessary,
- (7.05) Mr. Marsh outlined the county's change in the VIth form entry criteria:
1st: Pupils in Authority care
2nd: Pupils with special needs or siblings at chosen school
3rd: Formerly geography and/or siblings at chosen school
Now 3rd was replaced by highest GCSE grades.
- (7.06) Mr. McHenry re-iterated the need for advertising to include all age ranges. Perhaps introduce re-testing at 12+ and 13+ to allow able pupils opportunity to re-dress earlier failures.

- (7.08) A discussion about marketing possibilities for the Schools followed. Contributions from MD's in leading companies were welcomed. Perhaps staff could also visit primary schools, suggested one governor. Stimulating discussion followed
- (7.12) COGs of primary schools could also be invited for discussion.
- (7.15) The question of boarders to the schools being introduced was put forward. The main East Coast train line from Kent and London to P'boro and Grantham would allow children to board during the week and benefit from both schools' traditions and selective education. To be discussed further.
- (7.16) Better staffing - now in full process, would improve the current situation and many people would be willing to move house to provide a good education for their children.
- (7.20) To investigate these ideas there was a group of governor volunteers:
Mike Worrall, Louise Storry, John McHenry and Tony Elmer.
7. A.O.B none

8. Items for the next agenda

(7.30) Meeting closed

Dates for Governors' Diaries:
June 8th Full GB mtg at BHS SR at 6pm
July 6th Full GB mtg at BGS SE at 6pm

Plowth
Chair