

Devon Association of Governors

Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Thursday 9th June 2005, 5.30pm at the West of England School, Exeter.

Present: Leon Winston (Chair), Roger Adcock, Faith Butler, Jenny Currie, John Gale, Ivan Godfrey, David Gravell, Helen Morrison, Don Paterson, Ian Rogers, Rob Shilvock, Margaret Hosford, Colleen Arnold, Jo Frith, Judy Burgess, Iris Watson, Liz Hill (DAISI).

Apologies: Mike Billington, Laurie Burbidge, Debbie Clapshaw, Simon Howes, Jane Lucas, Sue Millner, Jean Willder, Carol Robinson.

05.13 Membership: The Chairman welcomed the Executive two new members, Jo Frith (Littleham Primary, Honiton), and Colleen Arnold, Governor Support to Church of England VA & VC Schools. Lady Claire Tod is no longer a governor and member of the executive. Nominations for two Vice-Chairs came from **Mike Billington and Iris Watson**, and were agreed unanimously.

05.14 Discussion 1: Presentation by Liz Hill, Director of DAISI:

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to Liz Hill, who is the new director of Devon Arts in Schools Initiative. She outlined the history of DAISI, the current structure and plans for the future: DAISI was formed by DAG 8 years ago in response to governors' recognition of pressure on arts provision in schools. DAISI now has one full time and two part time members of staff, catering for 240 registered artists, and last year DAISI worked with 16,056 children across schools in Devon.

DAISI is both proactive and reactive: schools can ring and ask for a specific artist or area of work, or they can initiate projects where a need has been recognised. DAISI can also help train teachers and artists, offer advice to schools such as planning arts weeks or one off events, and assist with applications for the Artsmark award. Recent projects have included video work with a pupil referral unit and a music project linking primary and secondary schools. The organisation supports all arts in a global sense, from visual to music to dance and performance. Funding is provided by the Arts Council South West, DCC Arts, Devon Curriculum Services, and schools themselves.

Questions from the meeting covered several issues: most requests from schools are relating to visual arts and dance. Music is rarely asked for, but DAISI has initiated music provision where a need has been identified. There is currently no Drama advisor for Devon, and so DAISI can provide an important service to schools in this area. DAISI does not have its own residential building, but some DAISI artists have offered use of their venue, and it would be a positive long term goal for DAISI to have its own space. DAISI is keen to offer arts education to children who would not normally get the opportunity, and appreciates governors who encourage their schools to get involved. Next year it was hoped to link specialist schools such as the West of England School and Royal School for the Deaf with the 'Animated Exeter' festival.

Liz concluded by outlining areas to develop in the future: The Young Peoples Arts Award which is being piloted in Cornwall; a government initiative for creative partnerships (CARA); links with the SCAN network of specialist arts colleges; developing links with neighbouring local authority arts education organisations; working with Local Learning Communities so that young people of all ages in one community can access arts together.

DAISI is supported by a board of Trustees, three of whom are on the DAG executive - Leon Winston, David Gravell and Margaret Hosford.

The DAG Executive were pleased to see that DAISI is thriving and appreciates the work being done by Liz and her team. They hoped that continued support from governors across Devon will ensure that the arts maintains an important part of children's education in the county.

Liz invited DAG executive members to DAISI's AGM on Wednesday 6th July, at Great Moor House. Please contact DAISI if you wish to attend (admin@daisi.org.uk. Tel 01392 385214).

05.15 Discussion 2: The Future of Governance in Devon by Judy Burgess, Head of DGS.

This was her last DAG meeting, and Judy outlined how she would like governance in Devon to look in 2010: She would like it to be thriving and distinctive, with Local Learning Communities, including governors, the hub of decision making. LLCs will have agendas and structures in which governors are important members, and should be strategic and agree statements of principal for their schools. This will enable collaboration, not competition, and bring together all aspects of community such as specialisms, transport, admissions, and extended community services. Primary and Secondary schools will provide an 'Every Child Matters' agenda for all children and young people in their community. Judy would like her successor to develop specifically the link between LLCs and governors, as well as focusing on the new relationship between schools and Ofsted.

Question from the meeting & issues raised:

It was noted that the recent Exeter re-organisation of schools was greatly helped by involving governors in a structured set up which was developed and supported by the LEA. DAG hopes that this is the kind of support that will be offered to governors in the LLC structures.

A question was raised over whether the predominance of stakeholders (eg parents & staff) on a governing body affected the desire to 'look to the wider community'. It is natural for a parent to invest his/her energy into their own children's school. However, with the right structures in place, a culture change towards collaboration would benefit all children. Governors should be encouraged to look at Devon as the unique county it is, and develop Devon's vision, not just the government's agenda.

Finally, Judy asked governors to remember - 'don't be pushed by your circumstances; be drawn by your vision'.

The Chairman thanked Judy for her presentation and her contribution to DAG over many years, and she received warm applause from those present.

It was agreed to discuss the development of Local Learning Communities and Governor involvement at the next Executive meeting. Action - Secretary - Agenda item.

05.16. Discussion on issues raised in letter from Mr Rich - will be discussed at the next meeting. Action - Secretary - Agenda item.

05.17. Issues raised at Annual Assembly - there were several positive reports from the meeting, and Deborah Magill's presentation was very well received.

05.18 Minutes of the last meeting on 10th March 2005 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

05.19 Matters arising not dealt with later in agenda:

- 05.09 'Matters Arising' book by Roger Adcock. Sue Rice at DGS is looking into ways of indentifying governors who have served a 12 year term, but the process is not straightforward. It may need individual schools to inform us of long serving governors.
- 05.09. DAG leaflet. Jenny to produce for Autumn Devon Governor.

05.20 Area Meetings - Autumn Term. These will be held on 27th, 28th & 29th September and 5th October in Exeter; N. Devon; E. Devon; and Culm Valley/Tiverton.

05.21. Committee representatives - reports back (see attached).

- Margaret Hosford reported on a meeting of the steering group for the new Children's Plan.
- Parents' Forum - Faith Butler represented DAG on this but the place should be for a parent governor - Ivan will put a request on the autumn update. Action - Secretary.
- DAG/DGS conference - Mike Billington and Jenny Currie are assisting Jane Lucas with admin support.
- Rob Shilvock will represent DAG on any potential LLC strategy meeting.
- Exeter Reorganisation Co-ordinating Group - is winding down due to near completion of the project - Laurie Burbridge will take over from Martin Weiler if and when it meets again.
- Exeter Reorganisation Partnership Group - This is a wider group and still meets 3 or 4 times a year - Laurie will also take over from Martin as DAG rep.
- Exeter Governors Forum - the LEA will be withdrawing admin support. Martin is exploring the possibility of continuing this under the aegis of the Exeter Learning Community, and will continue to chair in the short term until it's future is agreed. Laurie will take over as DAG rep. when Martin leaves.
- Exeter DAG group - bank account - Martin is proposing for funds to be transferred at the next meeting of Forum (June 30).
- DAISI - Leon Winston will Chair meetings until a Chair is appointed. David Gravell is now a DAG rep. Lesley Pattison will be co-opted onto the Board at the AGM on 6th July. If she wishes to take on the role of Chair at a later date, she can then be nominated by DAG.
- Ivan Godfrey and Margaret Hosford attended the NGC Spring council.
- Rob Shilvock represented DAG at the recent RE advisor appointment - no appointment was made, will be re-advertised later in the year.
- Leon Winston will attend meeting with SMT & reps from DAPH, DASH and SHAD on July 11th to review LEA performance over last year, and look at issues for the coming year.
- Art Angle, June 28th - David Gravell will be DAG rep.
- PROMISE Mk IV Advisory Board - John Gale will be DAG rep.
- Governing the School of the Future: 2005 DfES/Ofsted conference, 29th Sept, Warwickshire - Don Paterson expressed an interest.

05.22 Treasurer's report:

Ian Rogers circulated the DAG current account 2005 (draft). It was agreed that the following names should be signatories for the bank account: Ian Rogers, Ivan Godfrey, Leon Winston and Colleen Arnold. Action - Treasurer.

It will be necessary for a small group to e-meet and ratify the draft accounts before the next meeting - this will be Ian Rogers, Leon Winston and Iris Watson. Action - Treasurer.

It was agreed that the Honorarium should be revisited at the next meeting. Action - Secretary - Agenda item.

05.23 Secretary's report:

- Arrangements for the second half of the summer term were discussed. Ivan has informed all parties that he will be away until end of August, and if governors have any really urgent queries they should contact DGS and /or governorline about general matters and Leon about specific DAG issues.
- Problems with governors access to model policies etc. - Geoff Pettinger has sent relevant documents to John Gale to look at.
- Parent Governor Elections - Simon Howes is standing down and Margaret Ladbury's term of office ended in January. Ivan has had 2 expressions of interest to date.
- Plymouth - contact with the Plymouth governor organisation has been made.
- Pat Clewer has been invited to the next meeting on 20th Sept. to discuss the Every Child

Matters agenda.

- NGC Area Meeting will be held in the Spring Term.
- Jenny Currie - will continue as Asst Sec for the Autumn Term, but due to extra work at her school (including Clerk to Govs) will be stepping down after this.

05.24 Review of Meeting - the pattern of two speakers/items at the beginning was successful and it was agreed to continue with this. The next meeting will be held at the slightly later time of 6pm. To be reviewed next time.

- **Date and time of next meeting - Thursday 22nd September 2005, 6pm (refreshments from 5.30pm). West of England School, Topsham Road, Exeter.**

Other meetings:

- DAG/DGS conference - Friday 14th October - Saturday 15th October 2005, Crossmead Centre, Exeter.
- Executive meetings were confirmed as 10th November 05, 19th January 06, 9th March 06 and Annual Assembly - 25th March 06.

ACTION POINTS

Secretary/Asst Secretary.

Items for agenda for next meeting;

- 05.14 Governor involvement in LLC's.
- 05.16 Letter from Mr Rich.
- 05.22 Honorarium.

05.09 DAG leaflet - arrange for distribution through Devon Governor.

05.21 Parents' Forum - advertise for a rep. in autumn update.

Treasurer.

05.22 Change signatories for bank account; Arrange e-meeting to ratify draft accounts.

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNORS

Reports back for Executive Meeting on 9th June 2005

NGC SW Area Meeting

Date of Meeting 15/03/05 **Representatives:** Ivan Godfrey : Don Paterson :
Leon Winston

Issues to discuss at Executive - None

Issues for Information

- Presentation on NPQH and role for governors – governor need to be aware of the implications when making HT appointments
- Government Office South-West will help fund an NGC SW Area Meeting in the autumn. Good links established with lead education officer
- NGC Manifesto fully supported with a few suggestions for further improvements
- NGC / NASG merger proposals supported
- Concerns expressed about cost implications of Workforce Remodelling for some schools
- Gloucestershire's Fair Funding Campaign supported
- Date, Venue + Time of next meeting - Bishop Fox School, Taunton Tues. Oct. 4th 6.30 for 7.00.

Schools' Support Services Board

Date of Meeting 16/03/05 **Representative:** Ivan Godfrey

Issues to discuss at Executive - None

Issues for Information -

- Ongoing concerns about Capita provision are being monitored. Strong view that SCOMIS has worked extremely hard to overcome problems NOT of their making
- Ray Beale to meet Transport Team to discuss concerns (e.g. cost of minibus refresher training)
- Update on Primary School Meals' plans
- Presentation from Judy Burgess on proposals to change charges for DGS provision in 2006/07 so that costs reflected size of school more accurately
- Ingrid Fisher updated Board on progress in establishing an Alternative Portfolio for schools

Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting 15/04/05 **Representatives:** As listed

Issues to discuss at Executive - None

Issues for Information -

- Primary School Meals. 22 primary schools are currently undertaking a pilot school meals provision project in conjunction with DDS. As a result of lessons learnt in the pilot scheme it is planned to extend this to all Devon schools from September as a Devon-wide pilot with the LEA managing the profit/loss effect of any variations
- Response agreed to DfES consultation on 3-Year Budgets : all schools invited to send in their own responses
- DAPH will be consulted on the development of primary resource bases for SEBD children before commitments / funds are allocated for this
- A presentation on the Draft Children and Young People Plan will be made at the next meeting
- The Forum agreed to send a letter to the Secretary of State re Fairer funding and to urge all schools to make similar contact

DAG/DGS Conference

Date of Meeting 25/04/05 **Representatives -** Mike Billington, Ivan Godfrey

Issues to discuss at Executive - None

Issues for information -

Discussions continue regarding the various speakers. We have secured Dr Phil Norrey [Director] to open the event on Friday evening. Deborah Magill [Deputy Director] will give the opening introduction on Saturday. She will also close the event. The keynote speaker will be Naomi Eisentadt [a National lead on Sure Start and Early Years]. We are looking to have five workshop facilitators. So far we have Chris Dimelow [Child Protection Manager, Social Services] and Andrew Lovett [Headteacher, Tiverton High School]. Other possibilities are Roy Kerrigan [Headteacher, Two Moors Primary], Annette Lyons [County PSHE Advisor] and H.Thompson.

Since our meeting we have been informed that H.Thompson is not available and that Andrew Riley could do it but at a cost of £385 for a morning or £480 for the day. A decision on this has yet to be made.

For the DAG slot we will have both Chairs of the national bodies – Neil Davies [NGC] and John Adams [NASG].

Clarity is being sought regarding the availability of single and double rooms so that we know how many can be offered to delegates.

Next meeting 3.00pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 9th June 2005 at County Hall.