



DAG Executive Committee

Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, 10th November 2005 at 6.00pm at the West of England School for the Partially Sighted, Topsham Road, Exeter.

Present: Roger Adcock, Colleen Arnold, Mike Billington, Laurie Burbridge, Faith Butler, Debbie Clapshaw, Jenny Currie, Jane Day, Jo Frith, Ivan Godfrey, David Gravell, Oriana Hosford, Simon Howes, Don Paterson, Iris Watson, Leon Winston (Chair)

Apologies. John Gale, Helen Morrison, Rob Shilvock, Jane Lucas, Ian Rogers.

05/34 Membership. Welcome to Jane Day (new Parent Governor Representative).

05/35 Tribute to Ted Wragg. The executive stood in silence to remember Ted Wragg, who had sadly died earlier in the day.

05/36 Discussion on NGC / NASG merger and formation of NGA

It was agreed to support the merger of the two national governor organisations. The vast majority of governors canvassed in Devon at the last round of Area meetings have been in favour of a merger. It was noted that at the NGC AGM there is a resolution to defer the decision until spring 2006. DAG feel that the issue has been debated adequately and there should be no delay. The Executive agreed to recommend a merger, proposed and seconded by Colleen Arnold and Don Paterson. Roger Adcock will represent DAG at the forthcoming NGC AGM.

05/37 Governor workload issues

Governors have been expressing their concerns over the amount of time and issues that they have to deal with recently. One Chair reported that he had spent 11 full days on governor business in one half term.

There were a number of issues highlighted during discussion:

- There should be research at a national level on the amount of work done by governors.
- Clarification of the role of Chair and guidelines for him/her regarding delegation of jobs. Is the workload out of control or should chairs be more strategic and delegate work?
- There should be research into a possible system of payments for governors, similar to jury service, local councillors or volunteers on an NHS trust.
- More help from National bodies - a support mechanism?
- To remember that the governors' role is to support children and the school. Don't accept things as given - if there is not enough time to respond to a government directive that is not crucial, defer it.
- Keep talking to government and let them know what is going on in your governing body.

05/38 DAG for the next 5 years – its role, its relationship with DGS and personnel

- The future structure of DAG was discussed, as Ivan Godfrey would like to take on a different role after the Annual Assembly in March. There is also likely to be structural changes to the way DGS is organised when the Children's Service Directorate starts in April. It was felt this would be a good opportunity to look at how DAG will work in the next 5 years.
- It was agreed that a working party should meet over half a day to discuss. Oriana Hosford, Ivan Godfrey, Jo Frith, Don Paterson, Mike Billington and Leon Winston will meet this term and

report to the next Executive meeting. It was agreed that governors in Devon should be asked their opinion of what they want from DAG via a questionnaire.

- Leon & Ivan will request a meeting with Phil Norrey to discuss Judy Burgess' replacement and the future of DGS.

05/39 Minutes of meeting of 22nd September 2005 were agreed as a true record Proposed by Colleen Arnold & seconded by David Gravell.

05/40 To deal with matters arising not dealt with later in agenda

- 05.26 DAG/DGS Conference - feedback has been very good, and the main presentation by Naomi Einsenstadt was excellent. It was felt that the conference was exceptional value for money. Thanks were expressed to all involved, especially Jane Lucas, who helped to make it a success.
- 05.28 DAG Leaflet - this has been printed and circulated with the Autumn Devon Governor, with spares to go in new governor packs. Thanks to Jenny Currie.
- Torquay Conference - the message from this conference highlighted how all areas concerned with children can work across boundaries. Feedback will be coming in from delegates shortly.
- Committee representatives:
 - Don Paterson attended a DfES conference recently, which picked up strands of latest government policy and was excellent.
 - Roger Adcock attended a House of commons meeting organised by the NGC to lobby MPs.

05/41 Committee Representatives/Reports Back

- A report from John Gale regarding the Premises Board was circulated at the meeting.
- Colleen Arnold will attend a meeting of the Admissions Forum on Tues 13th Dec. Roger Adcock would like to step down from the Admissions Forum - a replacement to be decided at the next exec meeting.

05/42 DAG Reps - the following nominations were agreed

- Changing our Futures Group (outdoor activities and environmental awareness): Faith Butler.
- Extended Schools: John Udy.
- Schools Forum: Ivan and Leon to consider volunteers before putting a name forward.

05/43 Annual Assembly

Saturday 25th March 2006. Possible speakers suggested were Fiona Millar, Joan Sallis and the new director of Children's Services.

05/44 Officers' Reports

- **Finance** An update from the Treasurer was circulated. Thanks to Ian Rogers.
- **Secretary**
 - The six term year - this idea was dropped after consultation. However, Somerset have adopted it this year, and Simon Howes will look into how it is working out.
 - Non-reappointment of LEA gvs. There is a slow down of this process due to admin problems; Leon & Ivan will raise the matter when they meet Phil Norrey.
 - There is an important consultation going on regarding Children's Centres - Jo Frith is involved in this.
 - 'Extended Schools' is still on everyone's agenda and should be revisited at a future meeting.
 - The executive were concerned at the delays in the Exeter Schools' Reorganisation. The LEA has been asked to inform Parents by letter when there is any news.

- Leon Winston thanked Jenny Currie, Asst Secretary, as this was her last meeting. She was presented with gifts, and thanked everyone at DAG and wished them good luck for the future.

05/45 Date of next meeting: January 19th, 5.30 - 6.00. West of England School, Topsham Road, Exeter. 5.30 for 6pm start.

ACTION POINTS

Secretary:

05/36 Pass on DAG's decision to agree to NGC/NASG merger to relevant bodies if necessary.

05/37 Raise governor workload issues to relevant bodies.

05/38 & 05/44 (with Chair) Discuss DGS and LEA governor appointments when meeting P. Norrey.

05/41 Agenda for next meeting - Admissions forum rep.

05.42 Notify relevant groups of DAG nominations.

05/43 Invite speakers to March Annual Assembly.