

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 4/09

1 April 2009

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*Bulletin Board contains dates for your diary, details of consultations and other papers in and out of the NGA office, for information and action, and a digest of some of the activities of NGA on current issues. Circulation currently is to NGA Member Associations and the NGA Board. Distribution is by e-mail and post. **Please share this information widely, through your email contacts and at local meetings, to keep governing bodies better informed of, and more involved in, current activities and national issues.***

FOR ACTION: NGA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Regional Meetings:

East: Tuesday, 28.04.09; Priory Hotel, Bury St Edmunds; 6.30 pm

North East Summer Regional Meeting: Tuesday, 23.06.09; Durham County Hall; 7.00 pm.

Full details and all relevant papers for the East meeting are on the website at: www.nga.org.uk

Details of the NE meeting will be available nearer the date.

National Events:

NGA Spring Conference: Saturday, 9 May 2009, Leeds (Hilton-Leeds City). (See item 4)

NGA Annual General Meeting: Saturday, 7 November 2009, Birmingham (Venue tbc)

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News

NGA website: The members' area: **please note we are still lacking details of the executive members of some associations. Please remember to contact the NGA office with names, addresses and email addresses of your association's committee** so that they will be able to log into the members' area and receive copies of the NGA magazine *Matters Arising*.

NGA Newsletter: Don't forget to look at the Newsletter on the NGA website for information, as well as reading the Bulletin Board. The Bulletin Board and Newsletter can both be found in the Briefing section of the website: www.nga.org.uk/newsletterandbulletin.aspx

NGA Email Forum: The web forum is closing down and the email forum is to be re-established. Further information will be circulated as soon as the new system is set up.

Parent Governor Representatives: NGA would be grateful for information on how PGRs are appointed in members' local areas and what role they undertake. Please send details to NGA's Policy Officer at Gillian.windass@nga.org.uk.

2 NGA Awards for Governance and Outstanding Clerks

The Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, 21 March 2009 at the Council House, Birmingham. The Regional winners of the Clerks' Award (names published in the March Bulletin Board) received their awards and the National Winners of both Governance and Clerks' Awards were announced and presentations made. The presentations were made by NGA's President, Baroness Howe of Idlicote. The National Winner of the Outstanding Clerk Award was Joy Redfern, from the South East Region (Heatherside Infants School, Fleet, Hampshire). In the Governance Awards, the

winner in the Challenging Circumstances category was Earlham High School, Norwich. The winner in the Exceptional Projects category, and overall winner of the Navigate Award for Governance, was Torriano Junior School, Camden. (*Photographs are posted on the NGA website.*)

3 Celebrating Governance**

As members will know, there were more awards to governors in the New Year Honours List and NGA has established its award for Governance this year (*see item 2*). However, we should like information on how governance is celebrated at local level. We have had some details, but would welcome more. If your local authority has long service awards or any other way of raising the profile of governors, NGA would welcome details.

Please email Gillian Windass: Gillian.windass@nga.org.uk

4 The NGA Spring Conference – 9 May 2009 in Leeds (Hilton Leeds City)

The Conference will have a series of workshops on the following issues: recruitment and retention; special needs staff; staying within the law in regard to the Workforce Agreement and disability legislation; the importance of CPD for staff; and developing effective relationships with parents. The programme for the event and a booking form can be found on the Events section of the NGA website www.nga.org.uk, or obtained from the NGA Office (Tel: 0121-643-5787) or by email at: governorhq@nga.org.uk

The conference is free to attend and is open to all governors – please circulate to your association members.

(*The Hilton Leeds City is a short walk from Leeds Train Station.*)

5 Meetings Digest

Ministerial Working Group on Governance: *We at last have a date for the long postponed meeting – 21 April.* Look out for news in May's Bulletin Board, and a report on the NGA website. And when the time comes, ***please respond to the consultation.***

Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group (11.03.09): The Training and Development Agency (TDA) and DCSF gave updates on progress and Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners, spoke about apprenticeships and the Government's desire to have 400,000 in place by 2020. NGA's Chair gave an update on the working of the provisions of the National Agreement from the governors' perspective, including emphasising that compliance was non-negotiable – but was nevertheless challenged by one of the Social Partners about compliance and implementation.

Meeting of National Headteachers', Education Officers' and Governors' Associations

(24.03.09): The meeting was addressed by Jon Coles, Acting Director for Schools, DCSF. Discussion centred on the desire to 'narrow the gap' in an increasingly tricky economic climate, and the role of SIPs. Other issues of note at the meeting were:

- The 'What GB's Expect Document' was extending to Wales
- The status of the Ministerial Working Group on Governance
- Partnership working and what it really means
- Contractual arrangements for Executive Heads – The School Teachers' Review Body is looking at this
- Leadership working time and holiday entitlements: how undefined this is – and a desire to keep it this way.

Local Authority Caterers Association – School Food Summit (25.03.09): Concern was expressed by LACA members that secondary schools could not easily comply with the new nutritional standards and that take up would decline and their service would die. Two of three MPs present (Tim Loughton, Conservative Shadow Minister for Children, and David Laws, Lib Dem Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families) supported LACA and regretted the loss of choice for the 'customer'; Frank Dobson, Labour (not representing either the Government or

Labour), professed great support for the school meal movement and pointed out that if a third of schools are already doing it, it couldn't be too difficult. NGA's Chair, representing the school management view, pointed out that NGA supported the standards and had long been a keen supporter of quality food for children – i.e. *before* Jamie Oliver took up the issue. This was why, together with the Food Standards Agency, NGA had produced and promoted a publication specifically for governing bodies – the *Food Policy in Schools A Strategic Policy Framework for Governing Bodies*.

Other March events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Meeting with officers of NCOGS (National Co-ordinators of Governor Services), NCSL Succession Planning Advisory Group, Dudley Association of Governors, Knowsley Governors' Conference, Association of School and College Leaders Annual Conference, NCSL NPQH Re-design Consultative Group, National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, judging for NCPTA Gold Star and LEAPP Awards, GovernorsWales Clerks' Awards, Becta, Blackburn and Darwen Governors' Conference, F40 Group Annual Conference, General Teaching Council (GTC) Equality Forum, ContinYou Annual Conference, Teaching Awards Governor of the Year judging, Southwark Governors, The Education Show.

6 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

Changes are to be made to this distance learning programme. As a consequence, current stocks of the full assessment package are available at the discounted price of £10 plus VAT.

A link to the EduCare website can be found under Resources on the NGA website, or EduCare can be contacted by telephone on 01926 436200.

7 Teachers' TV

If you visit the Teachers' TV website and type in *Just for Governors* you can view a programme which looks at the merits of face-to-face, distance learning and online Governing Training, with input from the past Chair of NGA.

Programme information can be found by visiting the home page at: www.teachers.tv and clicking on *Full TV Guide* at the foot of the page.

TTV can be found on Sky Guide 880, ntl 240, Telewest 240, Home choice 845 and Freeview 88. Freeview viewing time has changed; it is now from 11.00am until 1.00pm

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

8 Draft Regulations for the Training of Newly Appointed Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) in England.

This consultation concerns draft regulations to amend the Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) Regulations 2008, to require school governing bodies to ensure that SENCOs new to the role undertake nationally approved training.

The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses may be made online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: senco.trainingconsultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: John Perryman, Special Educational Needs and Disability Division, Area 1E, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 22 May 2009.

9 Designated Teachers for Looked After Children: draft Regulations and statutory guidance

This consultation seeks views on draft Regulations made under section 20(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. The Regulations set out the qualifications and experience, which will be

required of designated teachers in maintained schools. DCSF is also consulting on the content of the draft statutory guidance to governing bodies of maintained schools (to be issued under section 20(4) of the Act).

The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses may be made online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: designatedteacher.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Michael Allured, Education and Well-being Team, Floor 1, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 20 May 2009.

Deadline for comment to NGA 5 May 2009

Also see *Children's Environment and Health Strategy for the United Kingdom: a consultation document*. Feedback is sought from interested parties on the Children's Environment and Health Strategy for the UK, for a period of three months beginning 17 March 2008. Details can be found at: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb>
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1207121681289>
&[HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1207121681289](http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1207121681289)

10 Publications available from NGA

Items available include:

- ◆ *What governing bodies should expect from schools leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing bodies.* The NGA has signed a national agreement with the Association of School and College Leaders and the National Association of Headteachers setting out how these important groups should work together. The agreement establishes ground rules for the relationship between headteachers and governing bodies. The document can be downloaded from the Guidance section of the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk
- ◆ *Welcome to Governance 2008-09 Edition.* This popular guide for new governors provides an overview of, and introduction to, the role and responsibilities of a governing body, with sections on meetings, school budgets, policies, development planning, visiting the school and much more. Price: £8.00.

For other NGA publications, visit both the Publications and Guidance sections of the NGA website www.nga.org.uk.

11 Other useful publications.

Recruiting Headteachers and Senior Leaders: This publication outlines a seven-stage process, which provides a governing body with the practical guidance needed to find success in recruiting a headteacher. The publication can be downloaded free from the NCSL website:

www.ncsl.org.uk/publications

School Improvement Planning Framework (New Edition October 2008): To find out more about this useful tool visit the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website. The framework can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy.

http://www.tda.gov.uk/leaders/schoolimprovement_framework.aspx

Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors: This can be downloaded from TeacherNet or ordered online from the Training and Development Agency at: publications@tda.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference no: TDA279/05.07/BEL/158)