

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

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1 March 2010

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The Bulletin Board is circulated to NGA Member Associations and to Co-ordinators of Governor Services to advise on NGA's work and important consultations and publications.

It is a membership benefit.

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

NGA Spring Regional Meetings: See www.nga.org.uk, under Events, for full details:

North East: 2.03.10; 6.30 for 7.00; Durham County Hall

Yorks & Humber: 17.03.10; 6.30 for 7.00; Holiday Inn, Wakefield

South West: 20.03.10; 10.00 for 10.30; Express by Holiday Inn, Taunton

East Midlands: 23.03.10; 10.30 for 11.00; The John Fretwell Sports Complex, Mansfield

North West: 23.03.10; 6.00 for 6.30; Swallow Hotel, Preston

West Midlands: 24.03.10; 6.00 for 6.30; NGA Office, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham

London: tbc

NGA Conference and AGM: 6.11.10; London

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News ~ please note any changes and additional items

NB: NGA's new Office address is Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY. The office phone number is now 0121 237 3780.

New Chief Executive

NGA's new Chief Executive, Emma Knights, is attending as many of the Spring Regional meetings as possible. Where she is unable to attend the Spring meeting she will come to the Autumn meeting.

NGA Membership Benefits: Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine *Matters Arising* to their home address, access to the members' only section of the NGA website and the e-newsletter direct to their email address. If you have not yet let us have the names, addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please let us have the information as soon as possible. Without those details your association is not receiving its full membership benefits.

Legal Support for Governing Bodies: NGA has come to an agreement with a legal firm to provide some legal support for governing bodies. For details visit:

<http://www.nga.org.uk/Resources.aspx>

Email Forum: Have you joined the forum yet? Details of how to sign up to the Forum were included in the weekly newsletter on Friday 4th September. *If you wish to be placed on the forum email Gillian Allcroft – gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk*

2 Funding Formula Consultation

This is advance warning that a national consultation on the Funding Formula should be out this week (week commencing 1 March). It is something that should concern us all. NGA will send out an alert.

3 Governance Review ~ News

The Ministerial Review Group on Governance is due to meet, at last, on 16 March. As soon as we have further information we'll alert members to the report and consultation dates. *Please respond to the consultation, late as it may be.*

4 Meetings Digest

Meeting with Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners (8.02.10): Issues discussed included:

- Increasing evidence of the variation and quality of LA support for schools and governors
- Training for Chairs / Professionalizing Clerking: on the issue of how to ensure that chairs took up the training, NGA suggested that this was a role for the SIP
- NAHT/NUT Action to boycott SATs: The Government is not going to change its position regarding SATs. NGA asked if the action did go ahead, would the Government issue guidance for governing bodies. The Minister said that it would.
- School Report Card: A discussion ensued from the previous topic about how the Government is looking to reduce the impact of league tables through the School Report Card. The Minister circulated a copy of the latest version, which is being piloted. It is, apparently, being widely disseminated. NGA agreed that, if it were informed by DCSF which LAs were involved in trialling the report card, it would try to obtain feedback from governing bodies.

Other February events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: CRB Advisory Group, National Heads', Directors of Children Services' and Governors' Group, National College Stewardship Group, Support Staff Negotiating Body, Essex Governors' Association, GOEast/NGA Conference, Centre for Public Scrutiny, Fair Access Group, DCSF/National College Training of Chairs, Oxfordshire Governors' Association, Partnerships for Schools (Governors and BSF involvement), Building Schools National Event and Conference (BSF and Primary Capital Programme), Standard School Year.

5 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

Changes have been made to this distance-learning programme. Details are available on the NGA website at www.nga.org.uk. Click on *Resources* and then *Training*.

6 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for Senior Leaders~ Spring Conferences

This series of conferences is aimed at Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Directors of Children's Services and the Third Sector. They will focus on the school context and 14–19 reform. DCSF is eager that governors should attend. The conferences are all on weekdays, from 3rd to 17th March and are spread across the nine regions. For information contact IAG@brackenevents.co.uk or ring 0115 947 5666. To book go to: <https://secure.symphonyem.co.uk/IAGRegionalEvents2010/>

7 Teachers' TV

Just for Governors – online resources: This area of the website, www.teachers.tv/governors, includes expert advice, the 'best of the web' reviews, a poll of school governors and links to programmes. There is a wealth of additional material online designed to help improve the performance of school governors. These range from detailed lists of related websites, through downloadable supporting documents, to a new library of complete high-quality presentations addressing CPD (Continuous Professional Development) issues. They are completely free to use,

and have been extensively tested during development. They are ready to use 'off the shelf' in training or can be customised better to meet the needs of an individual school.

Governor presentations: Teachers' TV's governor training presentations provide useful material to facilitate 30-minute discussion sessions at meetings. Each presentation includes video clips and discussion starters to spark debate about good practice.

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. Every Monday night at 7pm is **Governors' Hour**.

TTV can be found on Sky 880, Virgin TV 240, Freesat 650 and Freeview 88 (4–6pm). TTV programmes can also be viewed online at: www.teachers.tv.

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

8 **Draft new School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2010**

This consultation seeks views on draft regulations, made under paragraphs 19(2) and (3) of Schedule 6 to the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that update the School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2004. The 2004 Regulations are being brought in to line with provisions in the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007, made under the Education Act 2002, to take full account of new models of school governance.

It is also proposed that the 2004 Regulations are amended to replace the duty on local authorities to appoint a shadow governing body as part of the transitional arrangements from an Interim Executive Board (IEB) to a normally constituted governing body, with a power. This would give local authorities discretion over whether there is a need to appoint a governing body to shadow an IEB for at least six months, or whether it would be reasonable, given all the circumstances, to establish a normally constituted governing body in a shorter timescale, or immediately.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: CausingConcern.SCHOOLS@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Victor Mungol, Improving Schools Division, DCSF, 2nd Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 17 March 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 4 March 2010

9 **Considering Pupils' Views**

This consultation seeks opinions on new regulations that will lay out the minimum set of matters on which governing bodies of maintained schools must invite and consider their pupils' views. This relates to a new duty on maintained schools to invite and consider pupils' views on matters to be prescribed in regulations.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: pupilsviews.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 29 March 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 10 March 2010

10 **Pupil and Parent Guarantees**

The Pupil and Parent Guarantees (PPG) bring together in one place an account of the key components of a good education. The focus throughout is on the entitlements and the responsibilities of pupils and parents. The Guarantees will help to ensure that parents and pupils know what they can expect from schools. The Guarantees also spell out what schools can expect from parents and pupils in terms of their responsibilities to support schools. This consultation sets out the full text of the Pupil and Parent Guarantees and seeks views on whether the requirements for pupils, parents, schools and Local

Authorities are clear and understandable, whether all the 'musts' and 'shoulds' detailed in the guarantees are correct, and whether the responsibilities and entitlements for schools, pupils and parents are correctly balanced.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: pupilandparentguarantee.CONSULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area GB, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 6 April 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 15 April 2010

11 Joint consultation on the new role of School Improvement Partners ***

Views are sought by DCSF and the National College in this joint consultation on the role of School Improvement Partners (SIPs), following publication of the White Paper *Your child, your school, our future: building a 21st century school system*.

The consultation can be found through the DCSF website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ (right hand column, first item and 'click here') or by using the URL below.

NB Responses can only be made **online** at: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/about-us/national-college-role/national-college-consultation/sipsconsultation-questionnaire.htm>

DCSF/National College deadline 9 April 2010 Deadline for comment to NGA 18 March 2010

12 Sex and Relationships Education Guidance

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on the draft document, *Sex and Relationships Education Guidance*. This document provides guidance to maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England on all matters relating to SRE, including how good quality SRE can be planned and delivered, how to develop an SRE policy and how to support the health and social needs of all pupils with regard to sex and relationships. Headteachers and governing bodies are required by law to have regard to the guidance.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: SREGuidance.CONSULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 19 April 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 2 April 2010

Also see Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper which sets out a wide range of support for all families as they bring up their children and to help families to cope in times of stress and difficulty. (Closing date: 21 April 2010). Also Draft School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, which will require all local authorities to include a statement on their common application form, which signals to parents the importance of complying with a school's policies once their child has been admitted to that school. (Closing date: 25 March 2010). And Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, which aims to give all young people the knowledge and skills needed to ensure they are able to access and use contraception. (Closing date: 20 May 2010) For details see: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

13 Publications available from NGA

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

NGA Guides:

Welcome to Governance: a handbook for new governors, used extensively by local authorities as part of their induction packs for new governors.

The Chair's Handbook: is designed to be a comprehensive aid to newly elected chairs.

Welcome to Clerking: aims to aid clerks in the performance of their duties.

Support and Challenge: will help governors to meet their legal obligations, at a time when the new Ofsted framework will look keenly at, and judge, governing bodies' performance.

Full details can be found on the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk under Publications.

Please note: Workforce reform for a 21st century school: a brief for governors. This can be found via this link: <http://www.nga.org.uk/uploadfiles/documents/Workforce%20reform%20for%20>

14 Other useful publications to be aware of

Audit Commission – Valuable lessons: a value for money guide for school governors

In June the Audit Commission published a report about value for money in schools. One of the conclusions of the Commission was that insufficient attention was paid to economy and efficiency in schools and that as a result the Commission could not be sure that the taxpayer was receiving value for money. Following the report the Audit Commission issued separate guidance for local authorities, headteachers and school governors.

The guidance for governors, *Valuable lessons improving economy and efficiency in schools*, was published in July 2009 and is available to download from the Audit Commission's website via this link: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/valuablelessons/governorsguide30jun2009.pdf>

Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors (Revised Edition April 2009): This new and improved edition of the TDA's publication can be downloaded from <http://www.nga.org.uk/TDA.aspx> or ordered online from the Training and Development Agency for Schools at: publications@tda.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference TDA0664/03.09/COL).

Recruiting Headteachers and Senior Leaders: This publication provides a governing body with the practical guidance needed to find success in recruiting a headteacher. It can be downloaded free from the NCSL website: www.ncsl.org.uk/publications

School Improvement Planning Framework (New Edition October 2008): To find this useful tool visit the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website. It can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy: http://www.tda.gov.uk/leaders/schoolimprovement_framework.aspx