
REPORT OF SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2003

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| Chair: | * Councillor Gate | |
| Councillors: | * Miss Bednell * Mrs Champagnie * Jean Lammiman | * Ray * Stephenson * Thammaiah |
| Church of England: | * Mr A Newham (Alternate) | |
| Roman Catholic Church: | † Mr J Coyle * Mr M Murphy | † Ms Maureen Roe |
| West London Learning And Skills Council: | * Mr T Masters (Alternate) | |
| School (Parent/Secondary): | † Mrs C Millard | |
| School (Parents/Primary): | (Vacancy) | |
| School (Headteachers): | * Mrs M Arnold † Mr D A Jones (Vice Chair) | * Mr B A Robertson |
| School (Co-optee and Special): | * Mrs P Langdon | |
| HCRE: | † Mr P Pawar | |
| Adviser: | † Mr B Leaver (United Synagogue) | |

* Denotes member present

† Denotes apologies received on behalf of absent member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL
PART II - MINUTES

13. **Attendance by Reserve Council Members: RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.
14. **Attendance by Alternate Members: RESOLVED:** To note the following Alternate Members in attendance at this meeting:-
- | <u>Member</u> | <u>Alternate</u> |
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| Reverend P Reece | Mr A Newham |
| Ms E Yates | Mr T Masters |
15. **Declarations of Interest: RESOLVED:** That the declarations of interest made by Members of the Committee be duly received and noted.
(Note: The declarations made are set out in the Appendix 1 of these Minutes).
16. **Arrangement of Agenda: RESOLVED:** That all business be considered with the press and public present.
17. **Minutes: RESOLVED:** That (1) the minutes of the School Organisation Committee, held on 8 July 2002, having been circulated, be taken as read and correct;
(2) the authority be given to the Chair to sign the minutes of that meeting at a later date, as agreed by the Members of School Organisation Committee.

18. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

It was highlighted that Councillor Miss Bednell was in fact a Co-opted Governor of Stanmore College, instead of an LEA Governor, as stipulated in the Minutes.

RESOLVED: To note the above matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2002.

19. **Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations:** **RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions, petitions or deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rules 18, 15 and 16 (all Part 4B of the Constitution) respectively.20. **School Organisation Plan:** The Committee received a report of the Policy Review Manager on the draft School Organisation Plan. The Committee was advised that this would be the fifth School Organisation Plan prepared by Harrow, which covers periods 2003-2008.

It was suggested that the draft Plan was an integral element in the LEAs approach to raising school standards. The intention of Education Services' Strategic Plan, was to maintain a surplus capacity of places across all sectors of schools at 10%, which the School Organisation Plan was hoped to achieve.

The draft Plan had been divided into five sections, and provides a comprehensive picture of the projection of pupil population and school places required across the Borough. During the presentation, the Research and Information Manager explained that the figures received from the GLA detailing population projections and the consequential demand for school places in Harrow, required further analysis of the data and methodology. It was emphasised that the figures received by the GLA, usually when compared with Harrow's own projections, were relatively similar, therefore Members of the Committee should not be too alarmed at this stage of some the variations illustrated during the presentation. It was emphasised by the Policy Review Manager, that once in receipt of the revised figures, they would be incorporated into the final Plan. It was also confirmed that Harrow had not been successful in the PFI bid, and related information would be updated in the draft Plan.

The proposed timeline for the draft School Organisation Plan:

- Publication of draft for consultation period - April 2003
- Consultation period April to mid July, approximately 10 weeks
- Plan approved by School Organisation Committee September 2003, with publication to follow.

The Policy and Review Manager explained that the DfES were undertaking consultation on proposals for New Regulations and Draft Non-statutory Guidance on School Organisation Planning. Members were advised that consultation ends on 14 April 2003, and that the new proposal would come in effect from 11 June 2003. The Officer encouraged Members of the Committee, to read through the Draft Officer's Response to the DfES proposals, giving their feedback to her.

In agreeing to the recommendation proposed, Members expressed their disappointment at not being successful in the PFI bid, after so much effort. They also requested that the final School Organisation Plan be modified to take into consideration the change in Ward boundaries and names, it was suggested that the old and new name should be inserted for a short-term period.

RESOLVED: That (1) the draft School Organisation Plan be published for consultation with the inclusion of Harrow Association for Disabled People group, in accordance with the timetable and consultation plans detailed within the draft Plan;

Comment: Not sure of the right name of the group - fiona

(2) the following requests of the Committee be incorporated into the final School Organisation Plan in September 2003:

- Incorporate the new names of Wards and Boundaries in Harrow for an Interim period.
- A glossary of terms and acronyms be inserted.

(Note: The groups that participated in the vote and approved the decision were as follows: Representatives of the Council, the London West Learning and Skills Council, the Roman Catholic Church and Headteachers).

21. **Aylward First and Middle School – Request to Reduce Standard Number:** The Committee received a report of the Education Capital and Development Manager, detailing the proposed plan of reducing the Standard Number at Aylward First and Middle School from 90 to 60 pupils, with effect from September 2004.

It was emphasised that the Portfolio Holder for Education and Life Long Learning was endorsing the move by the School, which had been identified and pursued by its Governors. The Committee was advised that the statutory notice period of two months' expired on the 28 March 2003, and the Committee had received no objections to the proposal, therefore sought approval to implement the change.

There were a number of reasons for reducing the Standard Number at Aylward School, explanations centred upon the School being under-subscribed, fluctuating numbers of year groups that affected budgets, high levels of pupil mobility, teacher recruitment and retention, and the negative repercussions it had upon the community and School. It was stressed by the Officer that, the reduction of the Standard Number should not be regarded as a negative reflection upon the academic achievements of the pupils that attend the School, or of teaching abilities; it was simply deemed as a more pragmatic solution to a problem being faced by the School.

It was explained that this reduction would not result in staff redundancy, nor a loss of the School's accommodation; in the event of pupils requiring school places at a later period.

It was also highlighted that the School had already built up good links with Stanmore College, who were using surplus school accommodation for adult education during and after school hours. There were other potential uses for surplus accommodation being considered; community use of the School would not be affected by the proposal.

In agreeing the recommendation, the Portfolio Holder for Education and Life Long Learning, welcomed the proposed change, and said that he wished more School throughout the Borough adopted this way of thinking, as there were a number of advantages that came with the reduction.

RESOLVED: That (1) the Standard Number at Aylward First and Middle School be reduced from 90 to 60 pupils, with effect from September 2004;

(2) Harrow Admissions Forum be informed of the proposal set to take place, as agreed by the School Organisation Committee.

Note: The groups that participated in the vote and approved the decision were as follow: Representatives of the Council, the London West Learning and Skills Council, the Roman Catholic Church and Headteachers).

22. **Representation at the Meeting: RESOLVED:** The Chair thanked the representatives of the various groups on the Committee for their commitment to the work of the School Organisation Committee, and for ensuring that the group was quorate for voting purposes.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.37 pm).

(Signed) BRIAN GATE
Chair

APPENDIX 1

Declarations of Interest by Members of the Committee

- (1) A Member of the Council serving on the Committee declared a Personal Interest by virtue of having been appointed by the Authority, as a Member of a Governing Body of a maintained school, or a college of further education. Irrespective of which interest they claimed, the benefit available to them under the provisions of paragraph 12(c) of the National Code of Conduct, entitled the Member to remain in the Committee meeting and to speak and vote.

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Interest</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| Councillor Miss Bednell | (i) Co-opted Governor of Stanmore College |

- (2) A Committee Member present, representing the other School Organisation Committee appointed groups, also declared a Personal Interest, derived from their own membership of Governing Bodies in Schools in Harrow, or as Headteacher of a School in Harrow, the Member was able to remain in the meeting and claimed the right to speak and vote.

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Interest</u> (as a Governor) |
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| Mrs M Arnold | (i) Headteacher of Aylward First & Middle School. The Member abstained from discussion and voting on item 21 of the minutes. |