



Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee - 7pm on Wednesday 10th December 2014
Scout HQ, Trippet Lane

Present: Keith Crawshaw (Chair), Maureen Neill, Alison Warner, Sue Ransom, David Miller, Kath Rangeley, Mike Allan, Steve Randall, Jon Mordecai, Arline Kersey, Richard Foster (Secretary)

- 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October** – Approved as a true record – noted that Liz Tunnard has agreed to represent the Special Schools on CWLB, and networking meetings for Chairs resumed – and that although a couple of Governor Induction Sessions had been covered recently the SASGB “slot” now amounts to less than ten minutes in a session which itself is much shorter than it was – suggested and agreed that some sort of information leaflet to add to the Governor’s Induction Pack might be more useful than a fleeting appearance at an already crowded session.

It was further agreed that the next meeting of the Executive should concentrate on the overall question of Communication with the wider membership of the Association.

- 2. Appointment of Academy Representatives to the Schools Forum** – The Executive noted with some concern that these appointments seem to have been made without due reference either to Chairs of Governors, or the proprietors of the various Academies in the City – although the Constitution and Regulations of the Forum require such consultation. Jon Mordecai has made a formal objection to these appointments, on which he and other Directors at Silverdale should have been consulted as the Proprietors of that Academy. The SASGB Executive strongly supported this course of action, and mandated Jon to pursue it on their behalf...as well as that of the Silverdale Director/Proprietors.

On a related matter, the Secretary is seeking a list of Academy contacts from CYPD, in order that SASGB can when necessary and appropriate make direct contact with these key actors in both the primary and secondary sectors in Sheffield.

- 3. Progress Reports**

- **Strategy, Policy and Partnership Group:** Discussion continues as to the desirability or otherwise of paying Chairs of Governors as a matter of policy, with Councillors and SASGB generally opposed...but some SCC Officers very obviously in favour; the issue will clearly remain on the table for some time to come...not least because some Chairs

of IEB's have taken on the task on the understanding that they would be paid, and clearly those undertakings will need to be honoured even if they remain exceptional cases. More generally, the big issue remains numbers of SCC staff now available to support schools, who is doing what, how demands on the limited time available are to be managed...and which tasks will simply need to be dropped.

- **CWLB/Schools Company:** The main task of CWLB at present is the development of the Schools Company which is proceeding – although there is much left to do, and not just in terms of developing a business offer, appointing Directors, organising a staffing structure and other operational details; discussion is making it clear that many potential participants do not fully understand how membership companies work, and the level of both risk and responsibility they would need to be ready to accept. However, this is a big task – work is proceeding – and there is reason to believe that an effective Company can ultimately be brought into existence – although clearly not within the timescales originally envisaged. Further noted that the last CWLB did receive a Sport England report on school sport/ community use of facilities and so on; much to be improved on both fronts – it is to be hoped the report will be helpful in achieving change across the City.
- **Schools Forum:** Due to meet w/c 15/12 – much to be discussed in terms of school budgets and in the face of continuing pressure on the overall SCC Budget. Some discussion of the particular pressures on the SEN Budget, the distribution of pupil premium, and the possible development of the Locality arrangements as a mechanism for the more effective management and distribution of cash.
- **Meeting with Jackie Drayton:** Held as planned; confirmed that Councillor Drayton will do all she can to ensure that SCC nominees to Governing Bodies post-reconstitution will be appropriately qualified to contribute to the smaller but more focussed groups that will be coming in to existence throughout the City in the course of the School Year 2014/2015.
- **Scrutiny Committee, Education Safeguarding Reference Group, NGA November Conference:** Papers in respect of these various meetings were noted by the Executive.
- **Special Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on Child Protection:** Noted that this meeting is to be held on Monday December 22nd.
- **Governor Support Services:** The Executive continue to be concerned about the “direction of travel” with respect to Clerking Services...they believe that there is absolutely no substitute for a well-qualified Clerk who is experienced and knowledgeable enough to add value at meetings, and give well-founded advice to Chairs and Boards of Governors. Furthermore, it is with respect to Schools in difficulties that such a service is most useful...although those are the Governing Bodies which are the least likely to realise how much they need the help...and with the great reduction in numbers of CYPD staff, an authoritative and well informed Clerking Service represents a very significant opportunity to support schools and influence the

outcomes they achieve. Basic note-takers of very mixed quality do very little to support Governing Bodies...and absolutely nothing to help CYPD support schools and influence their outcomes, which is their main responsibility.

5 Finance: The SASGB Account stands at £2,478, with a further payment of £3,500 to come; the Treasurer is working to establish e-Banking systems, and it was agreed to add Alison Warner, Jon Mordecai and the Secretary as signatories.

6 Communications – to be the major item for discussion at the next Meeting.

7 Next Meeting February 4th, Scout Hut, 7.00pm.

Richard Foster
Secretary
SASGB