



**Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee - 7pm on Wednesday 4th February 2015**  
**Scout HQ, Trippet Lane**

Present: Keith Crawshaw (Chair), Maureen Neill, Alison Warner, Sue Ransom, David Miller, Jon Mordecai, Arline Kersey, Richard Foster (Secretary)

Apologies: Mike Allan, Kath Rangeley, Steve Randall

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014** – Approved as a true record.

**2. Matters Arising:**

- **Appointment of Academy Representatives to the Schools Forum** – Jon Mordecai reported that he had received a reply to his letter about the appointment of Secondary Representatives to the Schools Forum...but this had focussed on the individual appointed (which is uncontroversial, and not really the issue) rather than on process, and in particular the role of proprietors of academies in such appointments...he will pursue the matter further and keep Colleagues on the Executive informed.
- **Payment of Chairs of Governors** – Keith Crawshaw reported that a proposal to pay Chairs/Governors had appeared in the original version of a Paper on Governor Expenses – from which it had been withdrawn by agreement. The current position remains that although some SCC Officers believe that Governors should be paid in some circumstances, neither SASGB nor as we understand it Elected Members support this approach. That said they do accept that if a promise of remuneration has been made for some reason it needs to be honoured as an exception to the normal rule, and by whoever made it ...which would not necessarily be the School involved. The key point being that paying Governors from School Budgets reduces the cash available for Children, and should not under any normal circumstances be countenanced.
- **Schools Company** - Work on the Schools Company continues, but it is clear that there is not as yet a comprehensive Business Plan in place...and the Company will not be established within the timescale envisaged.

**3. Communication**

The Chair presented a proposal to establish an SASGB website to substitute for the existing printed newsletter – which is not now seen as a very effective way to keep in touch with over 2000 Governors – not least because of that number we sometimes see around a hundred, and most frequently see the same core group of twenty or thirty. That said, those with whom the Executive are in regular contact do represent a wide cross-section

of Governors from all types of School and all corners of the City...and we are careful not to make extravagant claims as to the comprehensive nature of our contribution...which is certainly greatly to be preferred than no direct Governor input at all.

However we clearly can and should do better, and it was agreed that this should be our key priority between now and the next AGM.

The Executive therefore agreed:

- To authorise the proposed expenditure of approximately £2,500 to develop a website along the lines now proposed, with the Chair to lead on this task and to report on progress at the next meeting of the Executive.
- The Chair and Secretary to jointly agree an interim communication to Governors to keep them informed as to what we are doing, and probably undertake a short and easy survey.

(Keith and I still need to meet on this task, for which my apologies – I will get in touch with him on my return from Rome)

#### 4. Urgent Progress Reports

- **Strategy, Policy and Partnership Group:** Recent paper on Governor Expenses covered under matters arising; increasingly clear that Localities will have a larger role in future, especially with respect to the allocation of funding.
- **CWLB/Schools Company:** The development of the Schools Company continues, driven for the most part by the Primary Sector...with Secondary Heads/Chairs much less involved, and little involvement from Academies in either sector as yet. It is currently suggested that the Company should be “limited by shares”, although it’s being “limited by guarantee” might be preferred by some...but there is still a great deal of work to be done in respect of services to be provided, by whom and what cost; and there are no obvious “cash cows” like payroll or cash management to underpin the enterprise. Furthermore, there has been no widespread consultation as yet and there is no plan in place to carry any out – what is absolutely clear is that there is much to be done before there is any real prospect of the Company being formally launched.
- **Schools Forum:** Noted that there is an emerging financial issue in respect of future school contributions to the cost of the pensions of non-teaching staff...the Chair believes that the sums of money involved here could be very (very!) large, and there are potentially some big bills to come for many schools.
- **Meeting with Jackie Drayton:** Planned for March 2<sup>nd</sup> – the Chair to report on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Scrutiny Committee:** The pre-Christmas Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was attended by just four members of the Public, and although nobody from SASGB made the most recent, Alison picked up a useful paper on the Children’s Act from this source, and will circulate it to colleagues.
- **Meeting with Children’s Commissioner:** Not clear if this actually took place, as no information about it was ever circulated...the Chair to follow up.
- **SEN/Moderation Panels:** SCC support on SEN matters and the frequency and usefulness of Moderation Panels remain a matter of concern.

➤ **Admissions Review:** Believed to have re-started.

**5 Finance:** The SASGB Account stands at £2,435.18, 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 Next Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup>, Scout Hut, 7.00pm.**

**Richard Foster**  
**Secretary**  
**SASGB**