



Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee - 7pm on Wednesday 13th May 2015
Scout HQ, Trippet Lane

1 Welcome and apologies

Present

Richard Foster, Mike Allen, Maureen Neil, Steve Randall, Arlene Kersey, Kath Rangeley,
David Miller, Alison Warner, Keith Crawshaw

Apologies: Sue Ransom, Jon Mordecai

2 Minutes of the Meeting of the 18th March 2015

Agreed to be a true record.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4 Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that he had now set up e-banking facilities with the Yorkshire Bank, and brought the list of signatories up-to-date. He has paid the NGA Subscription and web-site development costs, and the account stands at £4297.9 with the 2015/16 grant from the City Council not yet drawn down. However, various bills for meeting room rentals are outstanding.

The Treasurer confirmed that he was willing to remain in post for a further twelve months if he continued to command the confidence of the Executive Committee.

5 Communication with Members

Work on the web-site is proceeding apace, and the Chair hopes to be able to launch it at the AGM or soon afterwards. It will link with the NGA, City Council and School Point sites...and in the first instance will not have public and private areas or a discussion forum, although these might be introduced later on if they seem likely to be useful.

It would be very helpful if colleagues from the Executive could identify their "top ten" items/possible pages to be included in the first iteration to facilitate the next stage of development, and there will be further reports on progress at the AGM and the subsequent meeting of the Executive

6 Progress Reports

- **Planning for the AGM:** It was confirmed that the first half hour of the next Governor's Briefing on June 18th would be the SASGB AGM, and a number of possibilities are being canvassed with respect to the City Council part of the meeting...the Executive have an open mind, but would value some input from top management on how they view the year(s) ahead, and on key and potentially difficult issues like the Admissions Review, and the whole question of school places generally...and are not keen to see previous briefings and discussions re-hashed.
- **Schools Company:** Work is continuing to develop the Schools Company; it has now been decided that it will be a Company Limited by Guarantee with a small(ish) Executive Board, selected by the Membership but not necessarily comprising Members of the Company or their direct representatives...allowing the inclusion of external voices with key skills if this is deemed helpful. This means that the Membership Structure of the Company (which will be vested in School Governing Bodies NOT Head Teachers) will be of critical importance in developing the business and keeping it on track...and SASGB MUST take a leading role in engaging Chairs of Governors with the development and it's outcomes; not least because the process so far shows that there are very different levels of understanding amongst Governors, Head Teachers and indeed City Council Officers about how Companies should properly be constructed, how they work...and what the responsibilities of Directors are. In particular it is not clear that it is fully understood that once appointed Directors are responsible to and for the well-being, trading and solvency of the Company and emphatically NOT for the organization from which they are drawn. In an environment where both Head Teachers and Governors feel very much committed to "their" School this fundamental point cannot be made loudly or frequently enough...
- **Schools Forum:** Noted that Steve Robinson has resigned from both the Schools Forum and the CWLB; funding, the funding formula, pupil premium...and the impact they collectively have in respect of differential funding between schools...remain the constant pre-occupation of the Forum; furthermore, the quality of discussion and the level of knowledge and understanding of the mechanics of school funding which it indicates suggests that developing the Schools Company might be somewhat challenging in some areas.
- **City Wide Learning Body:** No particular matters to report.
- **Payment of Chairs:** Jon Mordecai confirmed that IEB Chairs CANNOT legitimately be paid from a school's budget, which means that if such arrangements are entered into they must be funded either from the Education Authority, the Department for Education or some other source...he can forward the relevant correspondence to any interested party. The Executive Committee was pleased to have this point clarified, bearing in mind their general objection to payments for Chairs – it will greatly simplify any future discussions about the issue that we are drawn into, either collectively or individually.
- **Local Training Programme:** Kath Rangeley raised this vital issue, but it still seems to be very unclear as to who is doing what, and on what basis...

- **Admissions Review:** The Executive are keen to see a report on progress with respect to the Admissions Review at the Governor Briefing on June 18th. They believe this to be one of the most difficult issues facing the City...popular schools in the South West of the City are seeing large and growing numbers of children not securing places in their catchment school, and numbers of appeals are growing exponentially...a new School is being built in East Sheffield, another is now apparently being planned on the Bannerdale site (with that building only demolished very recently, ostensibly for housing!) ...it is believed a third in the City Centre might now be under consideration. It is very clear that there have been some real problems with the core task of planning places for the numbers of pupils who will need them in the short and medium term...and this is a set of problems calculated to make parents and children anxious, angry and in some cases litigious. It is very much to be hoped that the City Council proves to be sure-footed in handling it, but it is hard to be wholly confident at this stage.
- **Representation at Future Meetings:** Steve Randall and Mike Allen to represent SASGB at the next meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Group; Keith Crawshaw will cover the City Wide Learning Body.
- **Forthcoming National Governors Association Meetings:** The NGA National Conference will be held on June 27th, and the Regional Conference on October 12th – Alison Warner to facilitate attendance

7 Meetings of Chairs

- Primary Chairs met on May 6th – another small but useful meeting; agreed in the circumstances to cancel the meeting planned for July 1st.
- Secondary Chairs are due to meet on June 6th.
- Special School Chairs are due to meet on June 8th

8 SASGB AGM

- Will be held at the beginning of the last Governor Briefing of the Year on 18th June, and the last SASGB Executive will be held on July 8th.

Richard Foster
Secretary
SASGB