

**Summary Notes from the Meeting of the
Association of Sandwell Governing Bodies (ASGB)
held at 6.15pm on 10th April 2019 at
Guardian House, West Bromwich**

Welcome and Apologies

Mr Patel, Chair of ASGB, welcomed guests and members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies and declarations of interest were noted. Members were sorry to hear that Janis Dean, one of our experienced and valued governors and member of the ASGB Executive had resigned, having moved out of the area. We wish her all the best in her life.

Chairs Forum Update – Chris Ward, Director Education, Skills and Employment

Mr Ward presented his update. Additional comments and answers to any questions have been included in the notes section of the presentation (attached) clearly marked 'ASGB Notes'. You may need to scroll down to see them all and take care if printing.

Update from Craig Felton, Director Governance SIPS

Mr Felton was unable to attend and submitted apologies. Members expressed concern that Mr Felton no longer attended ASGB meetings on a regular basis. His updates were regarded as an important component of ASGB meetings and members felt that his frequent absence demeaned the value of governors at a time when as volunteers, giving up their own time, were having to assume more and more responsibility in schools. The Chair agreed to write to Mr Felton on behalf of ASGB.

Review of the new ASGB Website

Siddique Hussain demonstrated the new ASGB website, noting the new logo which he had arranged to have updated and the files for which would be transferred to ASGB for future branding. The old logo was over twenty five years old. All documents on the website had been or would be standardised. An obvious spelling mistake was spotted, illustrating the importance of fresh eyes! More content was needed and we would like governors to share good practice, ideas etc. Everyone will have something that they feel that their school does well, so please share. Alternatively, let us know about issues you face that we can cover. A new email address is being set up for the support officer and chair. ASGB has a Facebook page, is Twitter registered and has You Tube ready to be linked. Please log on to the website, let us have your comments and contributions.

<https://asgb.org.uk/testing/public/>

Future Meetings

Members discussed ideas for future meetings:

- Parental Engagement – Andy Timmins had suggested various speakers who might attend a future meeting although it was felt that governors themselves would have a wealth of experience that they could share with each other in the meeting.
- Governor Recruitment/Retention and Succession Planning – members discussed the difficulties with regard to governor recruitment, taking into account the skills needed. Also some of the problems, where for an example an elected governor had ulterior motives for joining the governing board.

Joint ASGB/Chairs' Forum Meeting 10th April 2019

- Reduction of workload responsibilities in school
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reducing-workload-in-your-school>
- New Ofsted Framework – invite a colleague from a school that has been part of the testing of the new framework to talk to us about the role of governors.
- Governor Induction and Training – This was perhaps something we could ask Mr Felton to present.
- Alternative Provision including home education.

Minutes of the Meetings held 13th February 2019

Minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

Updates from Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had met prior to this meeting. Much of what was discussed has already been covered in these notes but additional points were:

- Response from local MP's to letter regarding school funding concerns – Three of the four MPs had responded. Nothing from Mr James Morris, despite a follow up. The other three MP's pledged support and we have since invited them to attend a future ASGB meeting. The Rt. Hon. John Spellar has responded positively and asked us to contact his secretary to arrange but as he has suggested a Friday for any meetings, attendance by governors on a Friday evening might be an issue. Mr Patel agree to make contact and find out if it might be possible to hold a meeting on a Thursday evening.
- A members questionnaire would be sent out prior to the AGM
- There was a discussion regarding GDPR, public liability insurance and disclaimers. All ongoing.
- Mr Hussain told members that in conjunction with the Dudley Association of Governing Bodies, it was hoped that an event would be arranged on 9th May 2019 with Lorna Fitzjohn, the Ofsted West Midlands Director.
- It was agreed that Richard Oakes from Sandwell Residential Education Service would be invited to give a short presentation on Sandwell's centres.
- Mr Byatt, also a member of the Schools' Central Health Committee had referred an issue on behalf of a member concerned that there would be not a lifeguard present at school swimming lessons. Since the meeting Mr Byatt has confirmed that this was **not** the case and that life guards would continue to be present at all school swimming lessons.

Open forum/Any Other Business

Ideas for future sessions included the Wellbeing Award and Engaging Parents

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be held on 22nd May 2019. Details to follow.

ADDITIONAL NOTE – ASGB/NGA SUBSCRIPTION 2019/20

Invoices for this year's subscription will be going out soon.

Subscription this year will be £241 plus VAT and continues to include the discounted standard membership of NGA. Gold membership is also available at a discounted cost, please let me know if you want details.

We hope that you will continue to support us to help support you!