

Meeting of the Association of Sandwell Governing Bodies (ASGB)
held on 28th March 2018 at 6.15pm at Guardian House,
West Bromwich

Present:

Mrs E Benbow – Moorlands Primary and ASGB Executive
Mrs Hazel Bloxham – Holy Trinity Primary
Mr B Byatt – The Meadows Sports College and ASGB Executive
Mr G Epstein – Perryfields Primary
Mr T Fowler – St. Margaret's and Eaton Valley Primary
Mrs S Harvey – Oldbury Academy
Mrs D Holden – The Priory Primary
Mrs Carole Gallant – Perryfields High School and ASGB Executive
Mrs Mary Parkes – Whiteheath Education Centre
Mr B Patel MBE – Great Bridge Primary and Chair ASGB Executive
Mr M Roberts – Park Hill Primary
Mr S Somerfield – King George V Primary and ASGB Executive
Mr A Williams – Lightwoods Primary

Apologies

Mrs P Brown – Grove Vale Primary and ASGB Executive
Mr D Fereday – King George V Primary and ASGB Executive
Mrs Lynn Howard – Lyng Primary, Hampstead Jnr, Newtown and ASGB Executive
Mrs Sally Harvey – Oldbury Academy of Sport and ASGB Executive
Mrs J Poxon – Joseph Turner Primary and ASGB Executive
Mrs J Dean – Sandwell Community School and ASGB Executive
Mr S Hussain – Ormiston Forge Academy and ASGB Executive
Ms. T Bate – Brandhall Primary
Mrs P Burford – Harvills Hawthorn
Ms. E Costigan – Wood Green Primary
Ms. S Gooding – Perryfields Primary
Ms. D Humphries – Whitecrest Primary
Mr I Kirk – Woodgreen Academy
Mrs S Lloyd – Tividale Primary
Mr. J McBride – Sandwell Community School
Ms. S Palmer – Silvertrees Academy
Mr P Piddock – St Mary's RC Primary
Ms P Stanaway – Langley Primary

In Attendance

Mr C Ward - Director Education, Skills and Employment
Mr C Felton – Director SIPS Governance and Finance
Lynne Foster - Support Officer ASGB

18/18 Welcome and Apologies

Mr Bob Patel MBE, Chair of ASGB welcomed guests and members to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

The Support Officer confirmed receipt of apologies and it was

Resolved that apologies noted above be accepted.

19/18 Declarations of Interest

The Chair enquired whether any member had any direct, indirect or pecuniary interest in the business to be discussed. There were no declarations of interest.

20/18 Chris Ward – Horizon Update

Mr Ward presented an update to members. The presentation is attached (appendix 1) with additional comments/questions attached to the notes section of each page.

Key points for governors to note related to:

- Elective Home Education: Are governors aware of the number of pupils leaving school to take up EHE and are they confident that the decision is being taken by parents for the right reasons?
- Governors must be aware of the obligation for their school to comply with GDPR and should continue to monitor compliance.
- Mr Ward encouraged governors to let him know if there were specific issues they wished him to address and/or if it would be helpful for him to invite along any of his colleagues.

Please let the Support Officer know if you do have any specific questions for Mr Ward or would like him to invite any of his colleagues to a future meeting. He is due to attend the ASGB meeting on 4th July 2018.

21/18 Craig Felton - Update from Governance SIPS

Mr Felton told members about the Governor Hub, a national database that would help to manage governor details. He explained how it would work and the advantages for governors, schools and clerks, assuring attendees that the system was GDPR compliant.

Cost would be around £100 but SIPS was looking to absorb some or all of the cost as it would be more efficient, faster and potentially save on paper based communication. (Mr Felton, made it clear that schools would still retain their current options if they so wished.)

The system would be available to all schools who used the SIPS clerking or support service. A pilot system would be run during the summer term ready for roll out in September and Mr Felton would be speaking to business managers and head teachers to gauge interest. Ahead of this, governors were invited to contact Mr Felton if they thought that their school might like to take part in the pilot.

22/18 Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting held 28th February 2018

Draft minutes had been sent to all members prior to the meeting, it was

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

23/18 Updates from Executive Members

Executive members met prior to this meeting to discuss various issues and these were included in the Summary Notes (appendix 1).

24/18 Open Forum

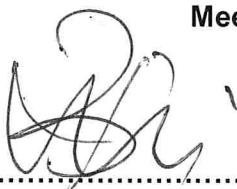
Executive members challenged members to think about what they wanted from the ASGB. Meetings were not always well attended and it was observed that members were 'talked at' during our meetings and did not have enough opportunity to discuss/share ideas, concerns etc. Notelets were circulated to encourage members to write down thoughts and ideas to make ASGB more a more supportive and effective association.

Newer members shared their thoughts that ASGB did not make it clear exactly what its purpose was, another member felt that the meetings/presentations were not always very useful. Further ideas, comments and suggestions for agendas were:

- We need to promote ASGB to new governors/all governors and clarify our purpose
- Attendance at Meetings: LF to report on attendance numbers and check out attendance at other association meetings. Could we see other association's agendas?
- Consult on ASGB Constitution with a view to updating it at the AGM this year
- ASGB Questionnaire to be sent to all governors
- Include open forum on every agenda; items to be forwarded to LF in advance if possible.
- More sharing good practice e.g. NGA meetings attended
- Members to attend other GB meetings to see good practice/offer feedback?
- Crib Sheet for new governors; what is a governor? etc.
- Invite NGA to a meeting to talk about the free training they offer.
- NGA Inspiring Governance: Worth promoting and inviting NGA to attend?
- Ofsted inspections: Invite members to talk about their experiences e.g. one day inspection; governors role re challenge/support during an inspection.
- School budgets agenda item: Discussion around restructuring and managing budgets.
- Session on mental health? Dudley event was very successful
- Session on governor recruitment?
- Encourage members to use the experience of ASGB Executive/members if they have a specific problem.
- Consider when we hold meetings/training (dates, time of day, term time/holidays?)
- More interaction between chairs: time for them to discuss issues
- 'Buddy' programme for new chairs? Link with ASGB Executive/experienced governor?
- Session on challenging the HT? What can governors do if they feel the school is failing?
- Meet with Dudley/neighbouring associations/chairs to define issues that are common to all with a view to arranging an event of some kind.

25/18 Next Meeting Date: 23rd May 2018

Meeting closed at 7.45pm



Chair.....Dated

