

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7:35pm

EDUCATION COMMISSION 18 OCTOBER 2004

Present: Councillor MacDonald (in the Chair)
Councillors Dhamrait, Latham, Marshall, Winter
and Wynn

Co-opted Members: Mr David Edwards (Church of England Diocese)
Mr John Honey (Roman Catholic Diocese)
Mr Tom Johnston

Also in Attendance Mr David Wilkinson (NASUWT)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Khan and Liversedge.

Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair reminded the Commission that a reception for potential parent governor representatives on the Commission was being held on 11 November 2004 at 7.30 pm in the reception room at the Council House. The Chair also reported that Bemrose Community School had come out of special measures and paid tribute to the school and local education authority for this achievement.

Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of interest	Reason
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College
	Personal	Member of National Union of Teachers
Councillor Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Primary School
		Governor – Dale Primary School

Mr J Honey	Personal	Head teacher and Governor St Georges Catholic Primary School
Mr T Johnston	Personal	Vice Chair Governor – Murray Park School Chair Governor – St. Clare's School
Councillor Winter	Personal	Governor – Mickleover Primary School
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair Governor – Beckett School Chair Governor – Bemrose School Wife a teacher employed by the LEA Governor – Nightingale Junior School Son employed by Woodlands School.
Mr D Edwards	Personal	Chair Governor – St James Infants and Vice Chair Governor - St James Junior Schools

14/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Commission held on 6 September 2004 were accepted as a true record subject to the inclusion of Mr David Wilkinson in the list of 'also in attendance'.

Items for Discussion

15/04 Grouped Schools PFI: Approval of Financial Business Case and Commercial and Financial Close

Mike Melliush and Rachel Wright updated the Commission on the background to the PFI. Mike Melliush outlined outstanding issues which were in the process of being resolved prior to signing the agreement. These included financial responsibility for furniture and equipment in schools, the extent to which Vinci Investments Ltd (or Consortium name Derby Schools Solutions) were drafting in the Project Agreement the requirements of the Treasury, site conditions and who would be responsible for the increase in insurance premiums over the 25 years of the contract. It was anticipated that the project agreement would be signed on 3 November 2004.

The Commission were of the opinion that the Grouped Schools PFI was entering a new phase. They considered that the finalisation of a detailed design might raise further programme issues which might also have impact on staff within schools. The Director had advised schools to involve the unions in school level discussions. The Commission considered that these factors now made it appropriate to appoint a teaching trade union representative to the PFI board.

Resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that a teaching trade union representative be appointed to the Grouped Schools PFI board.

16/04 Education Service – Work programme

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Education which set out a list of current key issues in the Education Service, to contribute to the Commission's consideration of its future work programme. David Romaine, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer explained that when choosing topics for review the Commission needed to select topics to which it could add value or from which it could gain value. He suggested that the Commission identify two topics which could be scoped up for the next meeting. The Commission could then decide which topic review to undertake. The scoping reports would include timetables for the possible topic reviews.

Resolved to request scoping reports to the next meeting of the Commission on:

- **School Governance, and;**
- **Improving the range of support and provision for pupils with significant behaviour difficulties.**

17/04

Home to School Transport

The Commission received an update on the Best Value Review of Home to School Transport. Councillor Allen was setting up a cross-party working group to look at the policy and criteria for appeals panels. The first meeting of the Cross-Party Working Group was still to be arranged. The remit of the panel would be to look just at the appeals policies/criteria and process rather than the whole Best Value Review. Councillor Latham asked who was on the Cross-Party Working Group. Councillor Dhamrait was concerned that Councillors who sat on the Education Awards and Transport Sub Committee should be involved in the discussions and recommendations.

Resolved to note the report.

18/04

Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered the Council Cabinet Forward Plan for November 2004 and requested where time permits that the following items be considered by the Commission at the appropriate time.

117/03 – Building Schools for the Future – Department for Education Skills Decision

150/03 – Vision for Children Centres

14/04 – Outcome of the Consultation on restructuring for Special Educational Needs Support Service – SENSS and People Referral Unit – PRU

15/04 – Agreement on the Outcome of the Consultation on Restructuring Special Educational Needs Support Service - SENSS

MINUTES END