

Time Commenced: 5.00 pm
Time Finished: 5.40 pm

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 25 FEBRUARY 2004

Present: Ian Samways – Parent Governor (in the Chair)
Councillors H S Dhamrait and Wynn
David Keys - Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Carran Stevenson – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Alison Brown – Church of England Schools
Kathy Mayer – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Lance Dean - Foundation Schools

16/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Steven Whiteley – City Technology College, Andrew Prince – Derbyshire County Council, David Edwards – Church of England Schools, Edwards Hayes – Roman Catholic Church Diocese, Thomas Johnston – Parent Governor and Neil Plimmer – Foundation Schools.

17/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

18/03 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Ian Samways	Personal	Governor – Littleover Community School
Carran Stevenson	Personal	Governor – Meadow Farm Community School
Kathy Mayer	Personal	Governor and Head – Cherry Tree Hill Infants School Governor – Castle Nursery
Lance Dean	Personal	Chellaston School
David Keys	Personal	Governor – Brackensdale School and Mickleover Primary

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Councillor H S Dhamrait	Personal	Governor – Sinfin Primary School
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair of Governors – Beckett Primary and Bemrose School and Governor – Nightingale Primary School

19/03 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2003 were approved as a correct record.

20/03 Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2005/06

Cathy Ford, Head of Admissions Service, advised the forum that the consultation pack included the co-ordinated admission scheme. All admissions authorities in Derby had signed up to the scheme. Although Landau Forte had agreed to co-ordinate closely with the LEA, they would not be part of the scheme. The Derby LEA were working closely with the Derbyshire LEA to ensure collaboration. Members of the forum agreed that there was a strong case for a standard appeals form. Robin Constable, Solicitor, advised that each admissions authority had their own style of form and we could not impose a standardised form on them.

Resolved to note the content of the consultation document and the progress of the scheme.

21/03 Arrangements for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 31 March would be cancelled, as there had been no comments received on the consultation for the admissions arrangements for 2005/06. A new date was set for 5pm on Wednesday 28 April to discuss the determined admission arrangements and any potential submissions to the adjudicator.

22/03 Any Other Business

Members' Training

Simon Longley commented that it may be useful to organise training for members of the Forum. It was suggested a half day or evening training session. Members welcomed this suggestion and it was agreed that Simon would bring some proposals to the next meeting.

School Places

Councillor Dhamrait asked if there were enough places in secondary schools for children starting in September. Simon Longley responded that there were ample number of spaces for children starting secondary schools in September 2004, as there were less children in Year 6 this year, compared to previous years. Although there were sufficient places, some schools would fill faster than others.

Extended Absences

Councillor Wynn advised that he would like to see more consistency across the city with regard to extended absences from schools. Simon Longley stated that guidance had been given to schools, to remove children from the role if children had not returned by an agreed date.

It was agreed that this issue would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting if it were deemed that this was an issue for the School Admissions Forum, otherwise this would be referred to the relevant body for discussion.

MINUTES END