

Time Commenced: 7:17 pm
Time Finished: 9:01 pm

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 22 June 2011

Present:

Group A - Christianity and Other World Faiths

Raj Bali	Hindu Faith
Rev. Mrs. Mair Bradley	United Reformed Church
Dr Hardial Singh Dhillon	Sikh Faith
Ruth Dolby	Jewish Faith
Wendy Jordan	Salvation Army
Forid Miah	Islamic Faith
Rev Roy Ninkovic	Serbian Orthodox Church
Joan Price	Pentecostal Church
Phil Royle	Methodist Church
Aslam Siddiqi	Islamic Faith

Group B - Church of England

Alison Brown
Maxine Bull
Viv Lawrence
Rosemary Wibberley

Group C - Teachers' Associations

Kate McRae	NAHT
Ash Venkatech	SHA

Group D - Local Education Authority

Councillors Higginbottom (in the Chair from minute 02/11), Radford and Wood

Co-opted Members

Mike Lake	British Humanist Association
Dr Phil Henry	Multi-Faith Centre

In attendance

Graham Falgate	Education Officer, Derby City Council
Kelsang Ratna	Guest from the Buddhist Faith

1/11 Appointment of Chair for 2011/12 Municipal Year

Resolved that Councillor Lisa Higginbottom be elected as Chair of the SACRE for the 2011/12 municipal year.

2/11 Appointment of Group Chairs for the 2011/12 Municipal Year

Resolved that:

- **Ruth Dolby be elected as Chair of Group A and Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the 2011/12 municipal year;**
- **Rosemary Wibberley be elected as Chair of Group B for the 2011/12 municipal year;**
- **Kate McRae be elected as Chair of Group C for the 2011/12 municipal year.**

3/11 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Tuplin and Turner, Kelly Bradley (NUT), Lucy Care (Religious Society of Friends), Laura Connolly (The Open Centre), Maryam David (Bahai Faith), Jane Oldershaw (ATL) and Ian Shaw (Derbyshire Pagans)

4/11 Late items to be introduced by the Chair.

There were no items.

5/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

6/11 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7/11 Restructuring of Children and Young People's Services

Graham Falgate updated members of the SACRE on the restructure that had taken place following the last meeting. It was reported that Graham Falgate's role at the council had changed but that he would retain responsibility for supporting the SACRE.

Members of the SACRE welcomed the news that Graham Falgate would continue to support the SACRE but expressed concern about the overall reduction of support to religious education teachers in the city.

Resolved that the update be noted.

8/11 English Defence League march in Derby

Mike Lake reported concerns over the EDL march proposed to take place in Derby on July 9. It was proposed that a letter be sent to the local media from the Chair on behalf of the SACRE to demonstrate the strong community cohesion from across faiths in the city.

There was some support for this approach but representatives from each of the groups also expressed some concern, specifically because making a statement of any kind was likely to draw attention to the event. Several members also expressed a view that, while members of the SACRE may fundamentally disagree with the EDL's objectives, the organisation was nonetheless democratically entitled to march.

It was proposed that a safe option would be to prepare a statement along the lines detailed by Mike Lake but opt only to release it should it be necessary so not to attract undue attention to the EDL march.

Resolved that the Inclusion Manager be delegated in consultation with the Chair to prepare a statement reflecting the SACRE's view and to make a decision as to whether that statement be published.

9/11 SACRE vacancies

The SACRE was updated on existing vacancies. It was reported that there were vacancies in Group A for representatives of the Afro-Caribbean Council of Churches, the Baptist Church, the Buddhist Faith and the Sikh Faith. There was a full complement of representatives in Group B. There was one vacancy within Group C, for a representative of NASUWT. It was reported that at its Annual Meeting the council had appointed the full complement of five members to Group D.

Kelsang Ratna, a visitor from the Buddhist Faith, was introduced to the SACRE. The process to enable Kelsang Ratna to fill the vacancy for a representative of the Buddhist Faith was explained.

Resolved that the update be noted.

10/11 Update on proposal to establish a free school in Derby

Mike Lake updated members on a meeting attended by Shazia Parveen of An Noor as well as heads and governors of local schools. It was agreed at that meeting to set up a future meeting with local heads where community concerns could be raised and discussed. The meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 June.

Resolved that Raj Bali, Maxine Bull, Aslam Siddiqi would attend the meeting with An Noor on Tuesday 28 June.

11/11 SACRE Action Plan

Graham Falgate reported the need to establish an action plan to guide the work of the SACRE.

Members reported that a meeting had been held since the last meeting of the SACRE to discuss options if officer support for the SACRE was withdrawn. Although this had not transpired, it was proposed that many of the outcomes that had been achieved through that meeting could be reused in the establishment of a SACRE Action Plan. Kate McRae had taken notes at the meeting and reported the outcomes that had been agreed to the meeting.

Resolved that the agreed outcomes would be distributed to members of the SACRE.

12/11 Annual Jewish SACRE Conference

It was reported that Ruth Dolby had attended the annual Jewish SACRE Conference in London. Issues covered included the Re-silience project (aimed at increasing the confidence of teachers in addressing contentious issues, particularly those linked with violent extremism), the newly launched Holocaust Explained website (www.theholocaustexplained.com) and the English Baccalaureate.

Ruth Dolby expressed particular concern about the inconsistency at schools in recognising the right of pupils of faith to miss school for religious reasons without these days being recorded as absences. It was reported that it had become impossible at some schools, due to their policies, for Jewish students to receive attendance certificates as their absences were not recognised as authorised.

Mike Lake expressed a view that schools were entitled to record these days off as unauthorised absences.

Resolved that the update be noted.

13/11 RE National updates

A presentation shown at the SACRE conference on May 8, 2011, was provided for members of the SACRE. The presentation updated members on national RE policy.

It was reported by Graham Falgate and confirmed by Ash Venkatech that a final decision on RE in the English Baccalaureate would not be made until the end of the year.

Resolved that the update be noted.

14/11 Future meetings

Members of the SACRE were asked for their views on bringing the meeting in line with other council-run meetings by moving the location to Saxon House, Friary Street, Derby, and bringing the start time forward to either 5.15pm or 6pm. It was explained that this would enable sandwiches to be provided to attendees and would assist with an earlier finish time for support staff.

Members of the SACRE felt strongly that they would prefer to continue meeting at the Multi-Faith Centre. There were mixed views on the start time, with some members expressing a preference for an earlier start time. However, it was reported that the Vice Chair would be unable to attend future meetings if the start time was brought forward as suggested.

Resolved that:

- **No action be taken on moving location or start times for the 2011/12 municipal year;**
- **Future meetings of the SACRE be held on Wednesday 16 November 2011 and Thursday 22 March 2012.**

MINUTES END