

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LIFELONG LEARNING

Thursday, 8th July, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ridney (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Dunn (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Boys, Mrs Coulter, Finch, Mrs Hart-Bowman, Mrs Pearce,
Rogers, Ryder and Wright, together with the following non-Council
members: -

Voting Members

Parent Governor Representative

Primary Schools – Mrs Chapman

Church Representatives

Archdiocese of Birmingham – Mr Hatton

Non-Voting Members

Teacher Representatives

Primary education – Ms Hewitt-Clarkson
Secondary education – Mrs P Roe

Free Churches

Mr J Guest

Person with experience of and interest in education in the Borough

Mr Nottingham and Mrs Simms

together with the Director of Finance, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Acting Assistant Director of Education (School Effectiveness), Mr Hunt, (Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Miss Stephens (Directorate of Law and Property).

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2004, be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the inclusion of Mr Wright under those present at the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on the terms of reference and procedure rules applicable to the Committee and details of associated matters.

Following a short presentation by the Lead Officer on the remit and functions of the Committee, it was

RESOLVED

That information contained in the report submitted be received and noted.

4 PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning gave a presentation on the role and work of the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Director gave an overview of the functions of each of the five divisions within the Directorate, whilst highlighting the aspirations of the Directorate in striving for continuous improvement.

Following the presentation given, several Members raised comments and questions, in particular regarding;

- a) In response to a question regarding the possible closure of school libraries, the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning stated that school libraries were not managed centrally but by school governing bodies and head teachers. He also stated that Ofsted assessed school libraries.

- b) Councillor Rahman queried the change in performance statistics with regards to GCSE results within the Borough. In response the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning stated that the statistics would be examined in the autumn term, once the 2004 results were available. He further added that a report on this issue would be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the presentation be received and noted.

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OUTLINE WORK PROGRAMME 2004/05

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on a proposed work programme for this municipal year.

Following consideration of the report submitted, several questions and comments were raised by Members, in particular regarding;

- a) Councillor Rebirtha requested that the spiritual and moral development of children be included on a future agenda of the Select Committee.
- b) In response to a question from Councillor Wright regarding the parent governor representatives, the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning stated that the Directorate were still awaiting nominations.
- c) Ms Hewitt-Clarkson suggested that updates be given on behavioural support and remodelling of the workforce at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, regarding the work programme for 2004/05, be endorsed for further consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.
 - (2) That an additional meeting be included in the programme to take place within the autumn term, in order to discuss the Inclusion Action Plan.
 - (3) That the three Working Groups indicated in paragraph 2.4 of the report submitted to be appointed, and that Members indicate their preference to the Clerk of the Committee as to which Working Group they would like to serve on.
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LIFELONG LEARNING

A report of the Chairman of the Select Committee on Lifelong Learning was submitted on the Annual Report to the Council of this Committee's review of the 2003/04 year for the information of the Committee. The report had been approved by the Committee at its meeting held on 29th April 2004 for submission to the Executive and the Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

A report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning was submitted on the annual report of SACRE.

In expanding upon the annual report of SACRE, attached as an appendix to the report submitted, Mr Hunt, School Advisor, stated that SACRE had been working closely with schools, to develop learning strategies in order to engage with young people in promoting effective learning. The learning methods used with young people included; developing skills such as evaluation, analysis and explanation. He further added that children were now able to identify reasons for their arguments and judgements and were thus able to participate more effectively in informed discussions.

Mr Hunt also highlighted the initiatives in place within the Borough in promoting effective religious education, these programmes included, the RE Debate, Certificates of Achievements, RE Quiz, Faith City and the Anne Frank Exhibition.

Mr Guest stated that the Personal, Social and Religious Education Working Group had made recommendations to SACRE with regards to collective worship. He also stated that SACRE had made huge progress over the last few years and commended the work of the body.

Following consideration of the report submitted it was

RESOLVED

That the information received in the report submitted, regarding the annual report of SACRE, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m

CHAIRMAN