

At a meeting of the EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY 11 JUNE 2012 at 4.45pm

Present: -

Councillor Porthouse in the Chair

Councillors Foster, Shattock and Williams

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farr and Scanlan and Dorothy Elliott.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Panel held on 16 April 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Consideration of Candidates for Inclusion on the Approved List

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report on applications received for inclusion on the list of approved candidates for appointment as Local Authority Governors.

Consideration having been given to the applications received, it was: -

2. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Children's Services be authorised to include the following candidates on the approved list of candidates for appointment as Authority Governors: -

Kevin Nicholas Stoker
Christine Williams

Governing Body Nominations

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report on nominations received for appointments to various governing bodies.

Upon discussion, it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the nominations detailed in the report be approved.

Approved List – Vacancies to be filled by the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel – 11 June 2012

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report concerning vacancies to be filled by the Panel in accordance with Rule 2(IV)(E) of its Rules of Procedure which stated that where the Ward Councillors had not made a nomination by the expiry of the term after the term in which the vacancies originally arose, those vacancies were eligible to be filled from the approved list.

4. RESOLVED that the nominations as detailed in the report be approved.

Federation of Washington and Thornhill School

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report asking Members to consider how the appointments would be made to the available Authority Governor positions on the federated Governing Body.

Members were advised that the Governing Bodies of the two schools had taken the initial decision that they wished to federate under a single Governing Body with effect from 1 August 2012. Under a federation the existing Governing Bodies of the schools were dissolved on the date of incorporation and a new Governing Body would be established.

Members were asked to note that the federation would be implemented in accordance with existing regulations rather than the new regulations which would come into effect from 1 September 2012. It was expected that the constitution of the new federated Governing Body would allow for 4 Authority Governors.

Whilst new appointments needed to be made, the existing Governing Bodies would like to see as much continuity as possible between the existing governance arrangements and the new federated Governing body.

The Committee recognised that there were currently 5 Authority appointed governors for the two schools and therefore asked that these governors to written to asking for any expressions of interest to be involved in the new federated Governing Body. An equal representation was proposed across the two schools however this would be determined once expressions of interest had been received.

This item of business would be considered again at the next meeting.

5. RESOLVED that a request for expressions of interest be sent to Authority appointed governors.

Changes to Constitution of School Governing Bodies from September 2012

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report setting out the arrangements for the constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools with effect from 1 September 2012.

Members were advised that the revised regulations allowed schools to choose a different constitutional model to that which currently existed. The regulations provide that the minimum size of a governing body should be seven members.

Members were asked to note that Governing Bodies could either choose to remain with their existing constitution or could agree to change to the new constitutional model with effect from 1st September or later. However, any re-constitution of the Governing Body effected from 1st September or later must comply with the new regulations. This also applied to any decision to change the name of the school, as regulations require that any new instrument of government was made under the new regulations.

The Committee recognised that the number of Local Authority Governors places would reduce significantly in any cases of re-constitution. In addition, under the new arrangement, the Local Authority nominates candidates and these would then be appointed by the Governing Body. This meant that they could effectively reject a candidate nominated by the Local Authority.

Consideration would also need to be given to how majority and minority parties would be represented where schools only had one Local Authority Governor place.

Members therefore asked that information in relation to this matter be forwarded to all Councillors.

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

(Signed) S. Porthouse
Chairman