

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS' FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2009**

PRESENT: Ms R Lucas (Chair), Mr S Barrick, Mrs J Buckby, Mr R Chapman, Mr M Henderson, Mr R Hollis, Mr T Jones, Mr I Macsporrان.

17/09 APOLOGIES

None.

18/09 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

None.

19/09 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A COUNTY HOT MEALS SERVICE

Mr Macsporrان welcomed Mrs Sue Underwood and Mrs Jane Phillips to the meeting. Governors had received copies of two letters from the County Council dated 20 January and 18 March respectively and a summary from Mr Macsporrان.

Mrs Underwood then outlined the proposals to encourage schools to return to the local authority. She said that a sum of £8.5 million had been secured from the School Meals Trust and explained what schools would get in return for their contribution. Moulton would have to pay £28,000 pa for three years and would, in return, receive a total of £60,000. She realised that this commitment amounted to a substantial sum but, once the new equipment had been purchased, it would then be maintained by the local authority.

Eleven secondary schools were needed to act as 'hubs' and the local authority would be non profit making. Alternative arrangements would be made if Moulton rejected the proposal.

Mrs Underwood said that the school's present caterer, TnS Catering, was looking to withdraw from schools and, at present, provided catering facilities for only four schools. One of these had agreed to join the NCC scheme.

Mr Macsporrان pointed out that he had been assured by TnS that they were, in fact, looking to expand their involvement in school catering.

Mrs Underwood would not comment on the suggestion that the local authority would have to buy out existing catering contracts.

Governors expressed their surprise that the proposals had only been brought to their attention in the last few weeks. Mrs Phillips replied that the timetable had been governed by the Schools Forum.

Mrs Underwood and Mrs Phillips then left the meeting.

Governors appreciated that the school kitchen needed updating but were concerned about the local authority approach. It was also unclear whether the document produced by the local authority was a consultation document or an agreement.

The committee had reservations that the local authority could carry out its proposals and felt that further clarification was needed.

After further discussion it was agreed that Mr Macsporrان should draft letters to both the County Council and the School Meals Trust.

20/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 MARCH

The minutes were agreed.

21/09 MATTERS ARISING

None.

22/09 BUDGET PROPOSAL 2009-10

Mr Macsporrán circulated copies of the proposed budget.

He explained where increases in funding had originated, where science college funding had been allocated and where proposals presented at the last finance sub-committee meeting fitted into the budget.

There would be a reduction to the allocations for maintenance, grounds maintenance and cleaning materials – these all had carry forward sums - .and also office expenditure as there would be no large items this year.

Capitation would be increased by 40% and exams and professional services would also have increased funding, the latter due to the change of personnel and payroll provider.

£14,570 had been allocated to contingency.

£39,400 of devolved formula capital had been allocated for servers and equipment for the new virtual learning environment.

Governors noted that allowance would have to be made over the next few years for the future levelling out of numbers in the sixth form.

The proposed budget was agreed by the committee.

239 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 18 June 2009 at 4.00 pm.