

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF MOULTON SCHOOL HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2007 AT 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Messrs S Barrick, R Chapman, Cllr D Cribbin, Mrs A Dabbs, Messrs J Hancock, M Henderson, D Isaacs, Mrs A Jeffrey, Mr T Jones, Mrs R Knight, Ms R Lucas, Messrs K Obodai, G Otley, Mrs J Sayers, Cllr Mrs J Shephard, Dr M Walley,

**40/07 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Mr Otley was duly elected.

**41/07 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Mrs Jeffrey was duly elected.

**42/07 APOLOGIES**

Revd Breckwoldt, Mrs McQuaid, Mrs Neilson.

**43/07 NOTIFICATION OF AOB**

Timing of meetings

Sub-committees

Uniform

Y12 Celebration Evening

**44/07 REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Mr Otley reminded governors of the legal requirement to complete a Register of Interests form.

**45/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6 JUNE**

The minutes were approved.

**46/07 MATTERS ARISING**

29/07 24/07 Parking in Pound Lane – Cllr Shephard reported that she had been informed that, due to funding, non support from Moulton Parish Council, the need to consult residents in Pound Lane and decriminalisation of parking offences it would not be possible to have double yellow lines. Parking offences were now a council matter and Daventry District Council had not yet signed up.

Mr Jones said that, at present, the school had no Travel Plan but he would be aiming for Healthy Schools accreditation and this would be looked at over the next twelve months. This to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

31/07 Head of Science post – Mr Chandler had agreed to manage the Science Faculty until the end of this academic year. Mr Jones to act as line manager for the maths department in place of Mr Chandler.

**47/07 SUB COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mr Jones felt that the school had no structure in place for reflecting on and reviewing pastoral issues and he proposed setting up a Pupil and Personnel Committee. This was approved and the following governors agreed to sit on the committee: Mrs Dabbs, Mr Obodai, Cllr Mrs Shephard, Mrs Jeffrey, Cllr Cribbin and Mr Chapman.

Finance – Mr Barrick, Mr Chapman, Mr Henderson, Ms Lucas, Mrs Neilson.

Curriculum – Mrs Dabbs, Mrs Jeffrey, Mrs Knight, Mrs McQuaid, Mrs Sayers, Dr Walley.

Pay Policy – Mr Otley, Ms Lucas, Mr Hancock, Mrs Sayers.

Moulton Sports Complex – Mr Barrick, Mr Henderson, Mrs Knight.

Science College Monitoring – Revd. Breckwoldt, Mr Hancock, Mr Otley, Dr Walley.

Performance Management – Mr Barrick, Mrs Neilson, Mrs Sayers.

Faculty links – both Mr Otley and Mr Jones agreed that, whilst governors should be encouraged to see the inside workings of the school, faculty links were not working as well as they should. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for a future meeting.

**48/07 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT**

Mr Jones reported on his first impressions of the school.

He had had two very positive meetings with the school's Improvement Partner and there had been a significant improvement in exam results over last year. There were still some areas of underachievement to look at but the general picture was very positive and staff will be able to move forward. Exam results are being analysed and should be available in November and will be presented to governors at the next meeting. Headline figures had been on par and value added at GCSE and KS3 results higher than 2006.

Governors agreed that Mr Jones should take back thanks and encouragement to staff for the excellent results.

Litter – additional bins had been placed on the field and in the dinner hall and students would be told about an anti litter post competition during PSE.

Cllr Cribbin offered help from Daventry District Council.

Mr Jones said that he had been hugely encouraged by the very positive staff response to moving the school forward. He also said that he had been encouraged by the attitude of students and that the school could be proud of them.

Mr Hancock said that there had been a very positive response from staff on the start that Mr Jones had made in school.

**49/07 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum

Mrs Jeffrey reported on the meeting of 26 June.

Items included a visit from the SENCO, Mr Peter Crotty, Behaviour Learning Policy and the OFSTED report.

### Finance

Ms Lucas reported on the meeting of 27 September.

Items included the current financial situation, Financial Management Standards in School (FMSiS), educational visits and health and safety.

### Moulton Sports Complex

Mr Barrick reported on the meeting of 18 June.

This covered the manager's report and Village Hall report which included parking issues. Mr Barrick said that Mr Schanschieff was an outstanding manager.

### Pay Policy

Mr Isaacs reported on the meeting of 9 July.

This had been a short meeting and governors had, once again, considered individuals' situations.

The NCC Pay and Benefits exercise had still not been completed and this had now been going on for some four years and, consequently, the committee had been unable to make any response. It was unlikely that it would be completed until early 2008.

Mr Isaacs had personally written to the leader of the County Council, expressing the frustration of governors. He had received a response assuring him that the matter is being addressed.

Mr Hancock wondered if it would be possible to give a pay award without waiting for completion of the exercise.

Mr Otley said that, technically, this was possible and that governors shared Mr Isaacs' frustration but thought it imprudent to anticipate the outcome. He urged governors to help move things forward in any way possible.

It was agreed to send a letter, from the governing body, to the leader of the County Council. Mr Jones also agreed to investigate further.

### Science College

Mr Otley reported on the meeting of 25 September.

This had been a brief meeting during which the committee had reviewed the science and maths exam results.

## **50/07 AUDITED ACCOUNTS – SCHOOL FUND & MOULTON SCHOOL TRUST**

These accounts had been previously circulated to governors.

Mr Jones briefly explained the activities of the Moulton School Trust and Ms Lucas the School Fund.

## **51/07 LINK GOVERNOR**

Mr Barrick reported that he usually attended three meetings a year but said that the school had always been well informed about any issues brought up at the meetings. He asked governors to let him know of any training courses they attend so that the FMSiS document could be updated. In-house training had, in the past, been very successful and Mr Barrack asked for suggestions for further events.

## 52/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Year 12 Celebration Evening

Mr Jones said that he had spoken to Mr Lancaster, Head of Sixth Form, who had reported that feedback from Y12 students indicated their reluctance to attend an evening event. Mr Jones suggested instead a celebration morning for current Y12 students which would act as a springboard to future achievement. Mr Lancaster had agreed to look at what students wanted. Prizes would also be reviewed.

Governors felt that Presentation Evening had been a major event in school and that parents might be disappointed and feel excluded if it disappeared. They found the evening celebratory and not at all boring.

Mr Jones said that he appreciated governors' perspective. He had been looking at the whole reward structure and he would ask Mr Lancaster to speak to the sixth form again. He felt that it might be better to create more frequent occasions to celebrate achievement. There was also a problem with inviting large numbers of ex students back into school.

### Timing of meetings

Mr Jones said that he had grave reservation about starting meeting at 7.00 pm and would prefer, if possible, a start time of 5.00 pm.

Mr Otley replied that this had been raised before and had been voted down because of availability of governors. However, it was necessary for governors to consider the work/life balance of the headteacher.

Mr Barrick pointed out that all sub-committees meet either during the day or immediately after school.

Mr Jones suggested a greater onus on sub committees to make decisions and bring those decisions to the full governing body for ratification. He said that his concern was for staff members.

Governors felt that this is what happens at present and that it was not the sub-committee reports which took up time but other issues.

After further discussion, it was agreed that meeting should continue to start at 7.00 pm but that there should only be one meeting per term unless there was an urgent matter to bring to Governors' attention. There would, however, be a second meeting this term.

### Uniform

Mr Jones reported that there had been a concerted effort to address the uniform problem and there had been considerable improvement. It had been harder to address the problem of girls' ties, particularly in Year 9. Years 10 and 11 are allowed to wear revere collar blouses with a house badge and about 50% do so. Mr Jones suggested that he offer the same option to Year 9 girls with effect from the autumn half term.

He felt that it would be better to make it compulsory, with effect from September 2008, for all girls in Years 9, 10 and 11 to wear a revere collar blouse and badge. If governors agreed, he hoped to discuss this with students at the next School Council meeting.

Mr Jones also said that he wanted to explore the possibility of a summer uniform, effective from the summer half term, possibly a white polo shirt and no blazer or tie. He felt that this would make the job of the staff more manageable when the weather was hottest.

Dr Walley pointed out that the parity between boys and girls was important. He felt that boys had become increasingly marginalised and were not allowed the freedoms that girls enjoyed. The world of work was changing and he felt that boys' views must be taken into consideration.

Mr Otley said that the school must be very careful not to bring in too many variations in uniform. Pupils must be clear what they are allowed to wear.

Governors agreed to Mr Jones' suggestions regarding uniform.

**53/07 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Full governors' meetings	Wednesday, 12 December 2007 at 7.00 pm Tuesday, 25 March 2008 at 7.00 pm (Change of date due to Expressive Arts Evening taking place on 26 <sup>th</sup> ) Thursday, 19 June 2008 at 7.00 pm
Pay Policy	Wednesday, 21 November at 3.45 pm
Curriculum sub-committee	Wednesday, 5 December at 2 3.45 pm
Pupil & Personnel	Tuesday, 18 December at 3.45 pm