

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF MOULTON SCHOOL
HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2009**

PRESENT: Mr G Otley (Chair), Mrs A Jeffrey (Vice-Chair), Mr S Barrick, Ms J Brake, Mr R Chapman, Cllr D Cribbin, Mrs A Dabbs, Messrs M Henderson, R Hollis, T Jones, Ms R Lucas, Mrs F Polnyj, Mrs L Proctor, Mr S Uden, Dr M Walley.

Mr I Macsporrان, Deputy Head, also attended.

11/09 APOLOGIES

Mr Hancock.

12/09 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms Lucas reported on the meeting of 30 March.

Proposed County hot meals service - two local authority representatives had presented the proposal and there had been a full discussion.

Mr Macsporrان reported that he had written to both the local authority and the Schools Food Trust.

Mr Otley said that governors were entirely happy with the current suppliers.

Mr Jones expressed his concern that local authority representatives had told him on several occasions that T(n)S wanted to pull out of school catering but that T(n)S had assured him that this was not the case and they wanted to expand.

It was agreed to await a reply to Mr Macsporrان's letters.

Budget 2009-10 – the draft budget had been agreed subject to the approval of the full governing body.

Mr Macsporrان presented the proposed 2009-10 budget presented to governors.

He said that he had set a budget of £5,870,920 and explained how it was broken down.

Salaries – teaching staff salaries accounted for 64% of the budget and the whole staffing budget for 79%. Support staff posts had increased over the last twelve months and the budget reflected this increase.

Premises – funding for both maintenance and grounds maintenance had been reduced but both had healthy carry forward figures.

The special subsidy to Moulton Sports Complex in return for loss of profit on vending machines had also been reduced.

Cleaning contracts – there would be a slight rise this year as sixth form student cleaners would be phased out and contract cleaners brought in to improve the cleanliness of the school.

Supplies and services – there would also be a reduction in the allocation for cleaning materials.

There would be a large increase in curriculum capitation this year from £106,530 to £149,140 and Mr Macsporrان explained how funding was allocated across subject areas. Exam fees would increase from £98,100 to £108,000 for a number of reasons.

Overall there would be an increase of 8%.

Capital funding – the government had allocated 40% of the 2010-11 budget to this year's budget.

It was intended to use some of this funding for computer hardware for the new virtual learning environment.

It would not be possible to complete the replacement of windows on the fourth side of the building this year as the money would be spent on a modular Special Needs suite costing between £100,000 and £120,000.

The school had received late additional funding of £17,000, £13,000 of which could be added to the contingency figure. The carry forward figure would now be £55,910.

Mr Macsporrán also reported that Mr Jones had today received a letter from the Learning and Skills Council reducing the budget by £67,000. The advice from the ASCL union had been to not make any changes to the budget at present as the decision may be reviewed. This appeared to be a national rather than a local issue.

After discussion, the budget was approved unanimously and Mr Otley signed the Best Value statement as set out in Annex B of the Scheme for Financing Schools.

Thanks were extended to Mr Macsporrán and Mrs Buckby for their work on the budget.

13/09 FOUNDATION SCHOOL STATUS

Governors had received copies of the returns at the previous meeting.

These had included returns from the local authority, a number of local secondary schools, the ASCL, a Parish Council and two parents.

Mr Jones reported that the parents' meeting had been very poorly attended and there had been no response from other unions, feeder primary schools or staff.

One parent response included some concerns on funding, guidance, land and buildings, the suitability of foundation status for the school and trust status.

The parish council had also raised concerns about admissions criteria, inclusion of special needs students, buildings, accessing local authority support, charitable status and school inspections.

All of these concerns were discussed at length.

Mr Jones reported that all issues had been dealt with at the parents' meeting but no-one had approached him with concerns on the night.

The next stage of the process would be for the governing body to publish proposals which, subject to governors' approval, Mr Jones proposed to do after the Easter holidays.

The decision to continue the process was unanimous.

14/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 25 June 2009 at 7.00 pm.