

**St Philips Primary School**

**Main Governors' Meeting, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Present:**

John Coe (Chair)  
Alan Brown  
Rob Clay  
Tim Conroy  
Hanna Diamond  
Andy Joy  
Margaret Joyce  
Rob Lucas  
Tony Parker (for first part of meeting)  
Debbie Pendrey  
Juliet Raynes  
John Snell  
Julia Stokes  
Gary Wilson-Garner

**1a Absent & apologies received and accepted**

Zaida Haworth, Vicki Szczotko

**1b Absent & apologies not received:**

None.

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

The minutes of the above meeting, which had been circulated, were agreed and will be signed by the Chair.

**3 Proposal to reduce to single-form entry**

3.1 Andy Joy put forward his proposals via a Powerpoint presentation (which was circulated to governors after the meeting). The proposals had previously been discussed at the Buildings and Health and Safety committee on 24<sup>th</sup> January and been given support there.

3.2 Tony Parker, Director of Strategic Services at BANES, outlined the council's view of the proposals:

- The LEA is supportive of the plan.
- They have a strategy of removing temporary classrooms.
- They have to prioritise the schools with most need.
- There is no money available until 2009.
- The new Primary Strategy from 2009 commits to improvements over the next 15 years.
- BANES will implement a 'quartile' system, whereby all schools are graded according to need – to become eligible for funding, the school would need to be in the top quartile. The quartile lists should be available by January 2008.

- The proposed new Junior block of 4 classrooms would cost approximately £0.75M.
  - Our two nearest schools have falling numbers (St Martins Garden and Southdown – both have reduced their standard numbers from 60 to 30).
  - The LEA feels that St Philips should also reduce to 30 because it feels that we can serve our local community adequately with that number.
  - The Foundation Stage suite is not needed in its current size if there are only 30 Reception children in it.
- 3.3 Alan Brown asked how St Philips can get into the top priority quartile of schools. Tony Parker replied that we have a strong case and that he expects us to be in the top quartile but can't say exactly where we will be within that quartile. He also added that if we don't reduce our numbers we will be funded for repairs rather than replacement of classrooms.
- 3.4 We need to make a decision about our standard number by May 2007 for September 2008 entry.  
**Action: Andy to add this to agenda for next meeting.**
- 3.5 Julia Stokes raised the point that there are several new housing developments on Odd Down which should bring in extra children, but Tony Parker said that these would be absorbed by the current standard numbers as there is excess capacity in the three local schools.
- 3.6 Alan Bain stated that he is in favour of the new buildings but not reducing numbers and doesn't agree that there is a link between the two. He argued that the school is popular and that we shouldn't be turning pupils away. He would like the school to continue to serve the surrounding communities, as well as the immediate area. Tony Parker replied that the LEA's aim is for each community to have a good local school, rather than families having to travel outside of their community. This was followed by a discussion of catchment areas and communities and the definitions of these.
- 3.7 Rob Lucas asked for clarification of the situation from Tony Parker. Tony replied that:
- The LEA will support us to reduce our standard number to 30 because they believe this is the most cost-effective way of us getting new quality buildings.
  - If we want to stay at 40 to 50, they will support us, but there won't be the space for a nursery and we can't justify new buildings and the use of the Foundation Suite for only 30 children. (However if we can fill all of the standard number spaces, this is different.)
- 3.8 Tony Parker left at 8.20pm. The discussion continued with arguments both for and against reducing the standard number and the pros and cons of mixed-year classes. Rob asked if Andy could re-project the figures based on standard numbers of 45 and 50 as well as 30. Tim also

asked if we could have figures for intakes over the last few years to see the overall pattern.

**Action: Andy to re-project figures and circulate.**

**Action: Andy to circulate intake figures for last few years.**

#### **4 Matters Arising**

3.2: Juliet confirmed as DfES approved governor for a further term.

5.3 and 6b: Angela Radice-Horne resigned as parent governor.

8: Self-evaluation: governors comments needed.

Education Sunday service – this was very good and thanks to all who attended.

#### **5 Correspondence**

John Coe received a letter from the National Governors Association regarding ICT. He also received a letter from the Office of Fair Trading about school uniform.

#### **6 Sub-Committee Reports**

##### **a) Policy & Standards**

Main points of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were a discussion of the ISP, and that standards have risen since pupil tracking has been introduced, and several policies have been approved. Alan Brown asked if the governors could have a prediction of SATs grades.

**Action: Andy to provide SATs grades predictions at the start of next term.**

##### **b) Buildings, Health and Safety**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to be circulated.

**Action: Andy to circulate minutes.**

##### **c) Finance**

The main points of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007 were that there is a slight surplus in the budget due to the sale of the minibus and that this is being spent on new computers, that there are ongoing issues with the water bill and that the staff room refurbishment will go ahead over half term.

##### **d) Link Governor**

No report.

##### **e) SEN Governor**

Julia reported that there are currently 20 groups being given extra support by TAs.

#### **7 Any Other Business**

7.1 Alan Bain reported that he had visited Ian Russell in China recently and that Ian sends his best wishes. He will be speaking on 18<sup>th</sup> February at St Philips church and also visiting the school for the Friday assembly on 16<sup>th</sup> February. All are welcome to attend.

- 7.2 Andy asked for discretion regarding the single-form entry discussion so as not to worry staff and parents unduly.
- 7.3 John Coe invited the new parent governors to join some committees!

**8 Next Meeting**

The next full governors meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7pm. Please note that we will have our photos taken at this meeting!