

BRIGHTON AND HOVE
SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

3.00PM - 21 OCTOBER 2004

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present:

Local Education Authority (LEA) Members

Councillor Hawkes (Chair of the School Organisation Committee)
Councillor McCaffery
Councillor Giebeler

Chichester Diocesan Board of Education Nominees

Mrs E Yates (Vice-Chair of the School Organisation Committee)

Brighton and Hove Governors Network

Mr J Barker

School Organisation Committee Officers in Attendance

Penny Jennings (representing the Secretary to the Committee)

LEA Officers in Attendance

Elizabeth Wylie
Jillian Jordan

Apologies: Mr F Myers, Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Catholic Schools Service; Ms M Hunt, Learning and Skills Council; Ms S Dare, Learning and Skills Council; Mrs D Pettett, Brighton and Hove Governors Network.

PART ONE

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

1.1 Following requests for nominations Councillor Hawkes was proposed as Chair by Mrs Yates and this was seconded by Councillor Giebeler. Councillor Hawkes was duly appointed as Chair.

1.2 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Hawkes be appointed as Chair of the

School Organisation Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

2.1 Following requests for nominations Mrs Yates was proposed as Deputy Chair by Councillor McCaffery and this was seconded by Mr Barker.

2.2 **RESOLVED** – That Mrs E Yates (Chichester Diocesan Board of Education) be appointed a Deputy Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

3. NOMINATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

3.1 No alternate Members were present.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING: 21 OCTOBER 2003

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the School Organisation Committee held on 21 October 2003 were considered (for copy see minute book).

5.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2003 as a correct record of the proceedings.

6. MINUTES OF MEETING: 10 MARCH 2004

6.1 The minutes of the meeting of the School Organisation Committee held on 10 March 2004 were considered (for copy see minute book).

6.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair be authorised to sign the public minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2004 as a correct record of the proceedings.

7. AMENDED SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

7.1 The Assistant Director, Strategic Planning and Services to Schools presented a report and gave an accompanying presentation relating to the position and effect on pupil places in schools in Brighton and Hove following the decision to close East Brighton College of Media Arts on 31 August 2005 (for copy see minute book).

7.2 The Assistant Director referred to the following areas in depth which were also set out in the circulated papers:

- Pupil Projections – Primary and Secondary;
- Secondary Strategy and Building Schools for the Future; and
- Review of Special Educational Needs Provision.

7.3 The current plan had developed to comply with the requirements of the DfES and whilst it contained the information required by the guidance, it was

intended that this should be produced in a more accessible format in future. Officers had been having discussions with demographers regarding the accuracy of the pupil forecasting data held within the plan as it is felt that the most reliable form of data to use now is GP registration data, where previously birth data has been used, partly because GPs were now being financially incentivised to keep their records up to date. Both birth data and GP registration data would be available by postcode areas in the future and this will allow for the comparison of the two sets of data. The use of GP registration data was also beneficial that it included individuals who move in to the city at any time – not just those born within the city. It was also proposed that the new plan should include new groupings for the primary schools. This is being proposed because the current groupings do not always reflect geographical areas. It is thought that the current groupings were based on the areas that the schools advisors worked in.

7.4 Officers would also like to consider including pupil preference data in the revised SOP as this will give an idea of the likely demand for places at each individual school. There were six primary and two secondary schools with more than 25% of surplus places. In addition there are a further thirteen primary schools with more than 10% surplus places, of these six have more than 20% surplus places. East Brighton College of Media Arts had been one of the secondary schools with surplus places; the other was Falmer School.

7.5 Statutory notices have been published to establish a new voluntary aided school, run on Montessori principles, in Brighton and Hove. It will fall to this Committee to determine that proposal. Recent government policies which affect school place and other provision planning were 'Every Child Matters', 'The Five Year Strategy for Children and Learning' and 'Building Schools for the Future'. The Brighton and Hove submission for 'Building Schools for the Future' was attached as an appendix for information. A draft consultative document on changing status and expanding popular schools had also been attached for information.

7.6 The Authority was also reviewing the provision for children with Special Educational Needs and this will form an important part of school place planning.

7.7 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the report be noted and that officers of the Council provide a new School Organisation Plan in the form proposed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 The Secretary to the School Organisation Committee advised that a further meeting would need to be convened in order to consider the proposals in respect of the Montessori School following the expiry of the statutory consultation period on 11 November 2004. A range of available dates was sought and it was agreed that the date once finalised would be confirmed with Members.

The meeting concluded at 5.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2004