

FLINTSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
5 OCTOBER 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Flintshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education held at Ysgol Maes y Felin/Ysgol Treffynnon, Holywell on Wednesday 5 October 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Bithell, Dave Mackie, Jim Falshaw and Nigel Steele-Mortimer

Religious Denominations: Dora Jones, Delyth McIntyre, Rev. Huw Powell Davies and Gail Woodward

Teacher Associations: Gail Woodward (John Summers High School) and Ibad Hussain

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Colin Legg
Gareth Wyn Jones

IN ATTENDANCE:

Challenge Advisor, Meeting Clerk and GwE Pioneer Team

PL welcomed all those in attendance as the Chair was not in attendance. He asked that one of the Members chaired the meeting, and a motion for this to be Cllr Steele-Mortimer was passed.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Ron Keating had usually carried on the Chair into any new term but was not present at the meeting. Unfortunately it would now be 2021 by the time the new curriculum is fully implemented so it wouldn't be necessary for Ron to continue as Chair. Therefore a new Chair would need to be appointed.

RESOLVED:

That a new Chair to be appointed at the February meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Rita Price was currently the Vice Chair but had not attended a meeting in the last year. Delyth McIntyre was happy to put herself forward but requested that Phil Lord liaise with Rita first.

RESOLVED:

That, Phil Lord to approach Rita Price for the consideration of a new Vice Chair.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - See above.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT**

Phil Lord declared he was a Challenge Advisor to some of the schools being discussed in the agenda.

The group broke for a tour of the new school.

5. **ITEM 9 BROUGHT FORWARD – PIONEER SCHOOLS AND THE NEW CURRICULUM**

The GwE Pioneer Team gave an update on the project. Andrea Taylor from the team explained that in response to the Successful Futures document that came out of the Donaldson Review pilot schools had been selected around the three areas of Digital Pioneers, Curriculum Pioneers and Pedagogy Pioneers. A group of 14 schools across the GwE consortium were chosen for this.

These schools are tasked with looking at principles of design around a new Curriculum. The new curriculum will be based around six areas of learning and was still very much in the research process.

Cllr Steele-Mortimer asked where RE would sit in the new areas of the curriculum. Phil Lord confirmed it would be under Humanities.

Pioneer groups need more schools involved and members were requested to let Phil Lord know of any that may be interested in getting involved. He also reported that only the Pioneer schools were being communicated with on this presently. However, Newsletters can be found on the GwE website: <http://www.gwegogledd.cymru/>. The Dysg Newsletter was also a useful source of information for School Governors in this area.

RESOLVED:

That, Phil Lord will keep the group updated on the progress of the project, and obtain the Dysg Newsletter link from the Pioneer Team.

6. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were submitted.

Matters Arising

Minute number 2 – Data

Phil Lord confirmed that the data would be available through GwE in the near future.

RESOLVED:

That, the minutes be approved as a correct record.

7. **SACRE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

Phil Lord asked that the group go through the report for accuracy. It was noted that page 15 alluded to an old list of the SACRE composition and would need updating. The updates were as follows:

- Dawn Westaway – retired
- Yvonne Barker – resigned
- Jim Falshaw replaced by Adele Davies-Cooke
- Hilary Isherwood – check if to continue
- Lyn Oakes – Secondary Classteacher
- Welsh School rep required

Cllr Bithell asked about the complaints on page 14, and what they would generally be about. Phil Lord advised these could be around withdrawal from RE in your own tradition.

RESOLVED:

That, Phil Lord to chase an updated SACRE composition list and the report be noted.

8. **ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS**

Phil Lord highlighted that the attached analysis report covered eight recently inspected schools. There was little to glean on RE but 50% of schools received comments on Partnership working.

RESOLVED:

That, the report be noted.

9. **LEAD PRACTITIONER – SUPPORTING THE NEW GCSE SPECIFICATIONS**

Phil Lord presented a paper on the above. Welsh Government had provided funding to GwE for 2016-17 to support schools for the delivery of the revised GCSE specifications. Many revised GCSE qualifications would be introduced for first teaching in September 2016 and September 2017. Wales will be retaining the grades system but England have introduced a number system. The table on Page 2 of the report shows which Curriculum needs to be followed for each year group.

In terms of exams the WJEC have monopolised this area in Wales. WG has a quango set up to monitor this.

For each subject, GwE has appointed 3 'Lead Practitioners' – one for each Hub, these are serving teachers who will help schools through this difficult time.

Phil Lord reported that at a recent GCSE Group meeting Lynda Maddocks highlighted some problems in getting the new curriculum through EDUCAS as there were issues around giving out draft specifications that may be subject to change. A conference will be held in the Spring and the draft specification should become official.

RESOLVED:

That, the report be noted, and a presentation arranged for this group at the end of the process.

10. SACRE AND SCHOOL TO SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Phil Lord reported that the Summer meeting around this had been very positive with good representation and support. The group will split into two with one looking at Curriculum, developing resources/sharing good practices etc. One of the groups will also be developing a 'good practice' pack for RE. Alex Clewitt has developed a site for sharing information on RE on the Hwb site.

Councillors raised concerns as to how long Phil Lord's role in this area could continue, given the other work pressures he now had under GwE. Cllr Bithell also reiterated the importance of school to school collaboration particularly in the area of RE where there were perhaps less specialists. PL reported that recent evaluation forms were very positive in this area.

RESOLVED:

That, Phil Lord compiles a summary of recent evaluation forms for the next meeting.

11. WASACRE

Phil Lord reported that the minutes were only ratified last Thursday and were now in translation, so he proposed they were discussed at the next meeting. He would be attending the WASACRE meeting in Carmarthenshire and there was also space for 2 more attendees. Although it was noted that the Summer meeting was to be held in Wrexham which may be easier for representatives to attend.

RESOLVED:

That, PL to check if Ron Keating was attending the next WASACRE meeting.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 February at 2 pm, County Hall, Mold.

(The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 3.30pm)

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Chairman