

BRINE LEAS SCHOOL

Governors' Meeting

Held on Wednesday 13th October 2010 at 6.45 pm

MINUTES – PART 1

Present: Mrs E Boffey, Mr A Cliffe (Headteacher), Mr T Court, Mr G Dowding, Mrs J Furber (Chair), Mrs P Lockett, Mr B Radford, Mrs D Rowlands,

In Attendance: Mr F Castelain (Item 1 only), Dr M Draper (Item 1 only), Mr C Hak (Item 1 only), Mrs C Jones (Item 1 only), Mr W Kinrade (Item 1 only), Mrs A Sanders (Item 1 only), Mr S Ascroft (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs K Bradshaw (Business Manager) and Mrs E Fletcher (Clerk)

1. **PRESENTATION ON 2009/10 GCSE RESULTS**

Mrs O'Neill gave a presentation on 2009/2010 results. It was highlighted that the information included in the document provided to governors prior to the meeting has been updated as a result of the re-marks. It was also highlighted that as a result of the selection of English Literature re-marks, the whole cohort will be re-marked which may further affect the results.

The following areas were highlighted to governors:-

- Science results for this year were pleasing.
- MFL results have seen a significant increase and Humanities have also seen improved results.
- IT have done well and Technology as a whole has seen some improved results and some areas have had reduced results. It was highlighted that Technology is an area requiring intervention; there have been some issues with coursework and staff absences. The department has reviewed its tracking procedures but this was not soon enough to see an impact for 2009/10 but should enable some improvement for next year. Governors were notified that the department operated without a 2nd in Dept for most of the year, although this appointment has now been made. In addition, the Head of Department was the Engineering Diploma lead causing him to be overstretched and this has had an impact. Mr Cliffe stressed that the requirement for intervention was not due to the amount of work and effort of the department, however, working methods and the pace of work does need to be reviewed.
- There was a growth in A*-A grades and 3 students received point scores in excess of 800.
- Creative and Performing Arts continues to be a strength.
- Early Entry results were excellent, in particular the early entry Maths.
- The Diploma results were above target.
- The CVA has been announced as 1032.5 which is slightly higher than last year.

Governors discussed the results in detail.

	<p>Concern was raised about the Technology results taking into account the fact that the school is a Technology College. It was highlighted that in terms of the school's specialism, Technology includes Maths and Science so overall results are very good.</p> <p>The subject of the number of exams BLS students sit was raised by one member of the meeting who highlighted that some schools set a limit on this and therefore queried the school's opinion on this. After discussion most governors present felt that at BLS, the curriculum is personalised for students to enable them take exams appropriate for them. Mr Cliffe shared that he is comfortable with the current system the school operates in terms of its exams and highlighted that its results have put the school in the top 3% of schools in the country. It was, however, agreed that limiting the number of exams students sit can produce better headline results if that is the school's sole aim. It was also explained that some additional exams are studied during their normal lesson time, as is the case with Maths exams.</p> <p>Mrs Furber and Mr Cliffe both stressed that that staff and students should receive congratulations as they have surpassed all targets.</p>
2.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for the meeting.</p>
3.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were raised.</p>
4.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were given prior to the meeting and a proposal was made that they were a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Outcome: All governors accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record.</p>
5.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 7th July 2010.</p>
6.	<p><u>COMMITTEE REPORT FEEDBACK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PASTORAL, STAFFING, CURRICULUM AND T&L COMMITTEE <p>The committee confirmed that they had read all supporting documentation which was provided to the full governing body prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed in more detail and/or require governor approval:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Pastoral</u> <p>Governors were notified that the four policies for approval will be circulated and approved at the next meeting. No other action was required. However, it was noted that attendance fell in the outstanding category.</p>

- **Staffing**

The committee shared with governors that some current policies are being looked at by the school's legal team following recent legislation updates and the conversion to Academy status. These will be put forward for governor for approval following this process. There were no other items for action.

- **Curriculum**

Governors were notified that the future of diplomas is in question and that the requirement to offer all diploma lines has been withdrawn. It was also highlighted that the students at Level 3 are happy with their alternative course.

- **T&L**

There were no items requiring action.

- **SITE & FINANCE, ARR AND POST-16 COMMITTEE**

The committee confirmed that they had read all supporting documentation which was provided to the full governing body prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed in more detail and/or require governor approval:-

- **ARR**

There were no items requiring action.

- **Post-16**

There were no items requiring action but it was highlighted that there has been positive start to the Post-16 education at BLS.

- **Site & Finance**

The kitchen refurbishment was discussed and it was highlighted that due to VAT complexities linked with being an Academy, it was proposed to increase the cost of school dinners to £2.20. It was also highlighted that the current supplier, CBS, is being reconsidered as it was felt that the variety and quality of food available could be improved. Governors were notified that Mrs Bradshaw is currently looking into alternative options.

Proposal: That governors approve an increase in the cost of school dinners to £2.20.

Outcome: All governors were in favour of the proposal.

Governors were notified that the new finance package is installed but is currently being tested before it goes live on Monday. It was highlighted that due to outstanding financial information from the Local Authority, a normal committee meeting around the budget couldn't take place. It was hoped that information will have been received from the Local Authority in time for discussion at the December meeting.

The number of accidents being reported was discussed and it was highlighted that work is going to be undertaken on reviewing when accidents are occurring during the school day to ascertain whether there are any patterns.

Governors were given advance notice that a number of policies are going to be put forward but there is nothing for approval at present.

The committee notified governors the school has to confirm who their gas and electric supplier will be and a proposal was made to remain with the local Authority supplier, NPower.

Proposal: That governors agree to remain with the current supplier, NPower for gas and electricity.

Outcome: All governors were in agreement with the proposal

	<p>The committee and all governors expressed their congratulations to Mrs Bradshaw and her team for the work put into finance issues as a result of the conversion to Academy Status.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>HEADTEACHER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Mr Cliffe discussed the contents of the Headteacher's Report, a copy of which was provided to Governors prior to the meeting. The following were highlighted as areas for governors to note in particular:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Cliffe welcomed Academy Governors to Brine Leas and gave an update on the role of the YPLA which is the body that has financial accountability. It was highlighted that some clarity is still needed and their role may develop over time. The YPLA will require copies of all minutes of governors meetings. • Governors were informed that the role of Ofsted is changing although this shouldn't affect BLS, however, the leadership team is keeping an eye on the changes. • Governors discussed the SEF and the fact that there is no longer a requirement to maintain this document. Governors all felt that the SEF was a useful tool to measure success and therefore should continue or alternatively another tool put into its place. It was felt that the way it flows into the SDP was beneficial. All governors were in agreement and the school will continue to produce a SEF document. Mr Cliffe also shared with governors that the FmSIS requirements will no longer apply to the school, however it was felt that new financial rigour will exceed that from FMSiS and therefore this is not an area for concern. • Mr Cliffe shared that the recent uniform changes have been successful and some girls are looking a lot more comfortable in their new uniform. • Mr Cliffe updated governors on the funding situation with regard to the EIP which consists of BLS and Malbank along with 14 primary schools. Governors were notified that an agreement has been made that BLS would still be part of the EIP and that the school will contribute the amount of funding which would normally have gone directly to the EIP. • Mr Cliffe share that he was pleased with the post-16 planning undertaken. The vision has retained its integrity. It was highlighted that there is a timetabling issue which needs resolving but this has been the only issue. • Mr Cliffe reiterated the need to put intervention in place for Technology and again stressed, that this need was not through any lack of hard work from the department. • Governors were notified that a cutoff of 270 children for Activity Day was put into place and demand showed that we could have gone to 300 or 320. It was agreed that this cutoff was appropriate, as in a previous year, the number was increased to 300 in order to meet demand and it was felt this was too many. • At the meeting, governors were provided with copies of correspondence which has recently been published in the Chronicle newspaper. It was highlighted that one letter was from someone who has links with South Cheshire College and the other is an area NUT representative. Mr Cliffe shared that he has responded via the head's newsletter which goes out to parents this week, a copy of which was provided to governors at the meeting. Governors were asked whether they felt a formal response should be sent to the Chronicle. After discussion it was agreed that a response was not necessary as the section in the newsletter more than covered the issues for our parents should there be any concern.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Cliffe notified governors that the route for Capital Build will be announced after the spending review and a proposal was made to investigate this but without putting any budget into it. Proposal: To carry out initial feasibility study into new capital build Outcome: All governors were in agreement with the proposal. Mr Cliffe shared that there are still areas to be tidied up with regard to the Academy conversion. It was highlighted that an area requiring quick consideration is the panel to look at exclusions and any policies requiring a layer above governor decisions. It was suggested that a possibility is a reciprocal approach with other academy schools. It was felt this may be a good solution and Mr Cliffe was asked to look into this. It was highlighted that the LA will still have a large role to play in safeguarding issues. Mr Cliffe shared that consideration is currently being given to an additional INSET day. He highlighted that whether there is a need for this is still being thought through, however, if required, the proposal is to include it straight after Christmas which ties in with an Inset Day for some local primary schools. Proposal: That governors approve, in principal, an additional INSET Day in 2010/11. Outcome: All governors agreed to the principal of an additional INSET day if it is felt that it is required. Mr Cliffe reiterated the statement in the Headteacher's report and confirmed that the school is going through the legal department to ensure that new employment legislation requirements are being met.
8.	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></p> <p>Governors were notified that since the previous meeting, Mrs A Sanders and Mr F Castelain have been re-appointed as staff governors. It was also highlighted that no nominations were received for the support staff governor role and this therefore remains a vacancy.</p> <p>Governors were notified that Parent Governor nomination forms have been issued and it was agreed to keep the three other vacancies open for the time being.</p>
9.	<p><u>CHAIR'S ACTION</u></p> <p>Mrs Furber notified governors of her decision to authorise the sale of scrap equipment following the kitchen refurbishment. It was highlighted that this raised approximately £1k which was retained for use in the kitchen project. All governors were happy with this Chair's Action.</p>
10.	<p><u>DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 8th December 2010 ~ Committees at 5.30 pm and Full Governors at 6.45 pm Wednesday 26th January 2011 (Finance Committee only) ~ 6.00 pm Wednesday 9th February 2011 ~ Committees at 5.30 pm and Full Governors at 6.45 pm Wednesday 18th May 2011 ~ Committees at 5.30 pm and Full Governors at 6.45 pm Wednesday 6th July 2001 ~ No Committees, Full Governors at 6.00 pm

End of Meeting (Part 1)