

# KGA Kent Governors' Association



**Minutes of Executive Members Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 23 May 2011**  
**Oakwood House, Oakwood Park, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone ME168AE**

**Present:** Mr J Keeler (Maidstone 2) **Chair**, Mrs D Bruce (Tonbridge Wells) **Vice Chair**, Mr A Oliver (Ashford Rural), Mr J Cunningham (Cranbrook), Mr P Sayer (Maidstone 1), Mr R Sams (Malling), Mrs J Leight (Sevenoaks South), Mr J Dennis (Shepway), Reverend S Lillicrap (Swale Rural), Mr J Bromiley (Swale Urban), Mr R Hitchin (Thanet 2)

**In attendance:** Linda Lissimore (Acting Governor Services Manager, KCC) Carrie Beech (Head of Workforce & Professional Development, KCC)

**Clerk:** Jacqui Harris (KCC Clerking Service)

**For Action by:**

**1) Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Report**

The Chair, Jack Keeler welcomed members, Linda Lissimore (Acting Governor Services Manager) and Carrie Beech (Head of Workforce & Professional Development) to the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from David Bower (Tonbridge) and Janice Brooke (Dartford West) and accepted.

**Alan Allcock (Ashford District)**

The Chair explained that Alan Allcock (Ashford District 1) had been taken seriously ill and had felt unable to carry on with any Executive or governance work so had reluctantly had to step down. He was unable to see visitors at the present time but Jack Keeler had written on behalf of the Executive members wishing him a speedy recovery.

**Membership**

Membership numbers were low and the Chair felt it was important to promote the Kent Governors Association in the Districts. The transition of the LA and interim posts was not helpful but asked Carrie Beech for some possible clarification on the matter.

- Members heard from Carrie Beech that there were impending interviews for directors on 14 June 2011.
- The LA was reviewing the structure with education, learning and skills and what was needed for the future.
- Budget was a challenge
- Central government would slow the pace of change
- It was important for Schools to support schools in the time of change

Initials: .....

**Kent Governors Association – Executive Members Meeting**

Page 1 of 7

- Kent and the members were very clear about wanting to continue to support school improvement particularly schools that found themselves in challenging areas
- The LA would be moving to a trading basis and Schools would be able to buy the improvement and support services they required

The Chair confirmed that members of the Funding Forum, on which there was governor representation, had been invited to attend a consultation meeting on 25 May 2011 with Andy Roberts as part of the 100 day plan for Headteachers. Ideas would be shared for moving forward. It was important that governors were represented at the meeting. John Dennis had received an invitation directly.

Andy Roberts (Interim Corporate Director, Education Learning & Skills) along with Sarah Hohler (KCC Cabinet Member for Education) would be presenting at the KGA County Briefing on 20 June 2011.

Carrie Beech emphasised that the budget situation was tough with the need to prioritise needs and look at how a structure would fit around the budget. Ms Beech also referred to the Kent Association of Schools.

Where had the 'Kent Association of Schools' come from? Linda Lissimore explained that the term had arisen out of Headteacher discussions from the 12 Districts and that she had been invited to attend a meeting to discuss the matter further. Mr Sayer (Maidstone 1) said that was the first he had heard of the matter.

- Applications for free schools and academies in Kent were gathering pace
- Things were changing on a daily basis
- Funding streams had yet to be confirmed
- There were schools that did not meet the national floor standards and as to how these would be funded, decisions were awaited from central Government
- Governors heard that applications for free schools and academies in Kent were gathering pace and things were changing on a daily basis.

Some of the issues would be outlined in Linda Lissimore's presentation.

Jack Keeler thanked Linda Lissimore for her time when they met on 3 May 2011.

## 2) Regional Updates

### a) Steve Lillicrap (Swale Rural)

- District Meeting had been held on 1 June 2011
- The meeting had been very well attended with input from governors
- Two meetings had been organised in the District for governors to attend and learn about the academy process

### b) Richard Hitchin (Thanet)

- Keith Abbott, KCC Director School Resources and Molly Norley, KCC Directorate Change Manager Business would be attending the District Meeting on 20 June 2011
- Previous meeting had been well attended and the audience had had some input to the agenda for the meeting on 20 June 2011

Initials: .....

**c) Jenna Leight (Sevenoaks)**

- Last District meeting had been fairly well attended but there had been confusion with the agenda
- There had been discussion around the issues of academies and budgets.
- How much money would be delegated to local schools, small schools would suffer
- Why was the District meeting being held at Brands Hatch with the current state of budgets within the LA? Linda Lissimore said that the Business Support Manager, Governor Services, had made the decision and may possibly encourage attendance. Booking to be investigated by Linda Lissimore
- Last meeting fairly well attended but there was confusion with the agenda.

**d) John Dennis – (Shepway)**

- Constantly disappointed by the lack of attendance and at the last meeting officers outnumbered representative governors.
- How could the problem be addressed? Linda Lissimore commented that where meetings were well attended then that in turn would raise items for the agenda for the following meetings

**e) Ambrose Oliver (Ashford)**

- Last District meeting had been well attended
- Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24 May 2011. Academies was a main feature on the Agenda and Jack Keeler would be speaking to governors
- Ambrose Oliver would be chairing the meeting
- Governors were not happy at having to book a place at the District meetings through CPD Online. Linda Lissimore commented that it was an experiment and the intention was to encourage and not discourage anyone attending on the night but the LA was funding the KGA meetings and was trying to capture attendance numbers so that appropriate venues could be booked.
- Attendance register was taken at each meeting

Carrie Beech explained the process of CPD Online to governors and the fact that the administration had been reduced by 50%. It was hoped that logos and badges could be added against certain events.

**f) John Bromiley (Swale)**

There was fear amongst primary schools being forced into becoming academies

The Diocese was hoping to provide an umbrella trust which would not be exclusive to Church Schools

Governors were assured that the Local Authority would still exist and would be delivering core duties. The fear being expressed was that some schools would be 'gobbled' up by a predatory organisation that would leave them powerless to make any decisions.

**g) Deborah Bruce (Tonbridge Wells)**

- District Meeting scheduled for 15 June 2011

Initials: .....



- Keith Ransome was unable to attend the meeting but had made arrangements for someone to take his place
- Fluctuating numbers of pupils in the District – Place planning was an agenda item and the effect on local Schools

**h) Richard Sams (Tonbridge & Malling)**

- Richard Sams commented that his Secondary School had 2000 children and the budget was £10M.
- Private Schools were not liaising with Grammar Schools in the area
- Had the LA thought about forming its own Umbrella arrangements for academies?
- Carrie Beech commented that in the current climate that would not be in line with the current thinking of Michael Gove

**i) John Cunningham (Cranbrook)**

- Attendance had been good at the last meeting held at Pembury
- Governors had commented on the quality of the sandwiches
- Discussion points had included; SIPs, Academies, budget cuts, Ofsted framework SEF
- There was concern locally about Angley School in Cranbrook

**3) Review of Nomination Form and Role of Executive Member**

The Chair felt that there was a need to look at possible re-constitution of the Kent Governors Association. Only 8 Districts were represented at the meeting.

Action: Chair and Linda Lissimore to review membership recruitment

Jack Keeler  
Linda  
Lissimore

**4) Governance Update/Partnership Meetings**

Governors heard a Presentation by Linda Lissimore – KGA Facing the Future

➤ **On the Horizon**

- Education Bill
- The changing role of the Local Authority
- Emerging alternative providers
- Curricula
- Standards and Improvement, KS2 results and Ofsted
- Deprivation
- Bold Steps 4 Kent

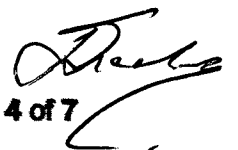
Schools will be able to work with the same School Improvement Partner (SIP) but this would come at a cost. The Local Authority would be an alternative provider.

➤ **Education Bill 2011**

- Student behaviour, abolition of Quangos
- Careers guidance - Schools to secure independent impartial guidance
- Freedoms granted – School Profile, School Improvement Partner
- GB Constitution – Parent, HT and Foundation governors
- Ofsted – High performing schools exempt

There would be an opportunity to have three categories of governors on the Governing Body. Community governors could possibly be renamed as

Initials: .....



Foundation Governors. That would be a decision taken by the governing body.

- **Ofsted**
  - Achievement
  - Quality of teaching
  - Quality of leadership & management
  - Behaviour and safety of pupils
  
- **Bold Steps 4 Kent**
  - Help the Kent economy grow
  - Put the citizen in control
  - Tackle disadvantage

Sarah Hohler would be discussing Bold Steps 4 Kent at the KGA County Briefing scheduled for 20 June 2011.

- **Resilience**
  - Flexibility
  - Buoyancy
  - Toughness
  - Spirit
  - Resistance
  
- **KGA**
  - Future funding
  - Consultation body – change, service development, voice
  - District meetings – CPD Online, purpose and impact
  - Flexibility and change
  - Measuring impact

**Was the KGA affiliated to the National Governors Association (NGA)?**  
The Chair replied that the KGA was a member of the NGA but they did not impose any restrictions on the KGA. There was an opportunity to feed in and out of regional meetings and the National Conferences. The next NGA National Conference was scheduled for June.

The Chair thanked Linda Lissimore for her presentation.

**Action: Linda Lissimore to forward an electronic version of the presentation to the Clerk to upload to Kent Trust Web**

*Linda Lissimore*

- 5) **Agree Minutes of KGA Executive Meeting held on 11 January 2011**  
The Minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Volunteer was required to fill the governor vacancy on the Funding Forum. Meetings were held early on a Friday morning.

Action: Phil Sayer to circulate Funding Forum information to governors

*Phil Sayer*

The NGA to be asked for information on how many academies there were nationwide at the present time.

*Jack Keeler*

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6) **Agree County Briefing Agenda – 20 June 2011**

Governors discussed the content for the Agenda.

**Action: Clerk to forward draft agenda to Linda Lissimore and Jack Keeler for approval.**

Clerk

The Chair thanked Carrie Beech and Linda Lissimore for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

Signed: .....



Date: .....

12/02/11

**Chair of Kent Governors Association**

Initials: .....

Page 6 of 7

**ACTION POINTS FROM MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2011**

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
3)	<b>Review of Nomination Form and Role of Executive member</b> Jack Keeler and Linda Lissimore to review membership recruitment	Jack Keeler Linda Lissimore	
4)	<b>Governance Update/District Meetings</b> Linda Lissimore to forward an electronic version of the presentation to the Clerk to upload to Kent Trust Web	Linda Lissimore Clerk	Completed
5)	<b>Minutes of KGA Executive Meeting held on 11 January 2011</b> Volunteer was required to fill the governor vacancy on the Funding Forum. Meetings were held early on a Friday morning. Phil Sayer to circulate Funding Forum information to governors  The NGA to be asked for information on how many academies there were nationwide at the present time.	Phil Sayer  Jack Keeler	
6)	<b>Agree County Briefing Agenda – 20 June 2011</b> Governors discussed the content for the Agenda. <b>Action: Clerk to forward draft agenda to Linda Lissimore and Jack Keeler for approval.</b>	Clerk	Completed