



Meeting held at Walton Priory Middle School, Monday 18th October 8.00 p.m.

Present: Amanda Brooke, Steve Swatton, David Owen, David Piggott, Caroline Law, Dan Beard, Nigel Cox, Susan Crookshank, Richard Thomas and Carol Felton.

Apologies: Kay Manuel

The vision for the Association for the next three years;
To encourage simpler and smarter governance. AB and DO had had a meeting with Ian Parry and had discussed training needs. The SGA feel that its role is developing governors and governing bodies, so a focus needs to be made on retaining and increasing membership.

AB produced a document with a vision for the next three years which revolved around various models of federations, loose federations, pyramids, academies etc. How governing bodies should develop and the criteria for enrolling new governors see attached.

Conference:

Speakers will include Lord Stafford and hopefully a minister.

Ian Parry, Sally Rees and Ann Birch have all offered their services at the conference. There will also be a speaker from the NGA.

The structure of the evening: open with a couple of speeches and then run some workshops followed by a buffet. Then back to workshops and then complete the evening with a roundup of the day and perhaps a further speech. The aim of the evening being to encourage governors to talk to each other. JCB and David Lees from John Taylor will be amongst those running a workshop.

Membership:

We need to discover if we have delivered to those who have become members. Have we fulfilled their requirements? We will need to have an updated log of the website statistics to ascertain which areas are being looked at.

Our priority must be to retain and increase our membership and to increase the engagement of members.

SS reported that in some circumstances the first contact given was that of HT, Clerk or the school office, therefore information not going directly to governors.

It was discussed that perhaps we could approach Stephanie Hayward (Governor Services) and request a slot at Chair of Governor briefings, almost a mini road show to talk to Chairs. Also to look at the possibility of making conferences a joint effort between SGA and Governor Services,

RT mentioned how we had aired the SGA at the launch and the possibility of members giving feed back through the website.

AB suggested we should enquire what governors need to move themselves forward.

NC suggested we asked governors what workshops they would like to have at the conference.

DO requested that a representative of the SGA attend NGA meetings, SS stated that he usually attends meetings, most associations send up to 3 representatives to the regional meetings. As a member of the NGA we can nominate 25 people to receive NGA up dates.

Next meeting:

Tuesday 9th November at the Spread Eagle, Gailey Island 6.30p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....



This is the document produced, this is only an example of how governing bodies could run and was produced as a point of discussion.

The future school governing body – 2013

Governing bodies with 8-10 members made up to include local businesses and other forums. Meeting twice per term and have responsibility for several sites. They either favour the federated or co-operative approach, working together to make governance simpler and smarter.

They are purely strategic and have faith to let the managers manage, they challenge and are strong being confident that they are driving the school and having a positive, direct effect on school improvement. They work as partners with schools, children and businesses to facilitate higher standards of education and management of education.

They use best practice from businesses and other governance models to ensure that school governance is proactive and not reactive.

They are listened to by decision makers and their opinion is actively sought on policy issues.

They completely understand their strengths and they actively seek other people from the community to help them on projects where they know their expertise is limited. Actively using a benchmarking tool they know how they are performing and can measure it, and they use this tool to compare their performance and to know where best practice is and how to access it.

They are flexibly structured; all sub committees are created and disposed of as and when depending on the strategic projects needed.

Everyone in the community knows who they are, pupils, parents, businesses, relevant organisations. They are active with their communication and people feel confident to talk to them, they take feedback and actively use this to make changes.

If this is a possible vision; how does Staffs Governors Association facilitate this future?