

Minutes: Special Educational Needs Working Party of the Governing Body of Dog Kennel Hill School held at 62 Oakhurst Grove on Monday 1 February 2010 at 6:30

PRESENT

Peter Bibby (Convenor)

Marion Cranmer
Gillian Reeve
Robyn Harrison

Eileen Wray
Jamie Barton

Apologies Karen Jones

1. Appointment of minute taker

The Convenor volunteered to take minutes

2. Minutes of meeting Monday 12 October 2009

a. Admissions

Early Years Working Party have formulated a policy governing admission of children who are not toilet trained.

b. Expenditure on statemented children

Minutes 12 October recorded:

With reference to children with funded statements, we are spending about £60,000 (40%) more than our income from Southwark. In order that Peter can discuss this with Southwark we need an accurate table of expenditure on each child with the support hours provided and the number of support hours specified on the statement.

Resolved: To ask Robert Ashdown (and/or Finance and Personnel Committee) to produce current accurate income and expenditure table for children with funded statements.

The work to relate expenditure to statements in this way has not yet been done.

Resolved: Eileen agreed to make sure we have this at our next meeting.

3. SENCO Training

DKH is proposing that Southwark organise training and support for SENCOs, perhaps with one or two meetings a term for SENCOs to share knowledge and experience. So far Southwark is not enthusiastic about this idea. Eileen will raise the lack of support for SENCOs at a meeting with Southwark officers Yvonne Ely and Ian Morris. Also, continue to seek the assistance of Diane Conway the School Improvement Partner.

Robyn will be doing a one day a week course in dyslexia teaching along with teaching assistant Amanda Freshwater. The start of the course was delayed somewhat. It will take a year. Thereafter both staff members will be qualified to do one to one work with dyslexic children.

4. Annual Reviews

Governors have not attended any annual reviews since the last meeting.

We noted that Southwark had failed to send an officer to two reviews for children in year 5. It is the local authority's policy that an officer attend all year two and year five reviews. We decided not to take any specific action about this. The attendance of an officer from Southwark is not important in all cases. Instead the School will identify cases where it is important. In those cases we will prompt Southwark to attend.

5. Secondary Transfer

A child with a statement was refused a place at the Charter School on what appears to be improper and unlawful grounds. The Charter appears to have refused the place because the child has special educational needs.

6. Individual Children

We discussed individual children. Robyn pointed out that the process of getting a statement took a long time. The local authority is subject to statutory time limits:
6 weeks from request for assessment to decision to carry out assessment.
12 weeks from decision to assess to service of proposed statement.
It may be helpful if parents complain to Southwark /their local Councillor where these time limits are exceeded.

7. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be Monday 24 May 2010 6:30 at 62 Oakhurst Grove.