

Minutes: Special Educational Needs Working Party of the Governing Body of Dog Kennel Hill School held at 62 Oakhurst Grove on Monday 24 May 2010 at 6:30

PRESENT

Peter Bibby (Convenor)

Marion Cranmer
Gillian Reeve

Eileen Wray
Robyn Harrison

Not present Karen Jones

Jamie Barton

1. Appointment of minute taker

The Convenor volunteered to take minutes

2. Minutes of meeting Monday 1 February 2009

a. Secondary transfer [REDACTED] School

Southwark decided not to name [REDACTED] School on a statement of special educational needs for one of our children, because [REDACTED] School wrote an outrageous, offensive and unlawful seven page letter to Southwark saying they did not want the child and would not meet the child's needs. The child was instead offered a place at Haberdashers' Aske's. Peter B met with parents and Yvonne Ely, Head of Special Educational Needs at Southwark, to express our concerns

- 1 That Southwark did not consult the parents before deciding not to offer the child a place at [REDACTED] School.
- 2 That [REDACTED] School is operating an unlawful policy of discriminating against children with disabilities in an attempt to reduce the number of children with statements at [REDACTED] School.

We are hoping to arrange a meeting with the Deputy Director of Children's services Education (Terry Parkin) and the new Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services (Catherine McDonald).

[REDACTED] School's actions and attitude with respect to children with special educational needs is a matter of grave concern.

Eileen W Expressed concern that [REDACTED] School did not send a person to the handover annual review for one child last year.

Robyn H Reported that Katherine Nicholls had concerns about children transferring to [REDACTED] School.

ACTION: Robyn H get Katherine N to write letter setting out concerns. It could be addressed to Peter Bibby.

ACTION: Eileen W to write letter to Yvonne Ely setting out facts about nobody at annual review. Copy to Peter Bibby.

b. SENCO Training

Eileen W and Robyn H raised the lack of support for SENCOs with Yvonne Ely and Diane Conway (the School Improvement Partner) but did not get a positive response.

ACTION: Peter B to write to Yvonne Ely and Diane Conway.

3. Expenditure on children with special educational needs

Eileen W tabled the breakdown of expenditure on individual children with statements. We did not have this year's budget allocation figures at the meeting, but they are included in the figures below.

For 5 children with band 3 statements the school receives an additional £15,125 per child per year. Our average additional spending per child per year is £18,172.

For 4 Children with band 4 statements the school receives an additional £12,715 per child per year. Our average additional spending per child per year is £15,168.

Our SEN spending for children with funded statements is **£22,000** per year more than the SEN income they attract.

There are an additional 8 children who have individual teaching assistants. I think 6 have unfunded statements and two do not have statements. Total annual SEN Expenditure on these children is £108,548 (Average SEN spending per child £13,568). When Southwark stopped funding band 5 and 6 statements the money was delegated to schools. The 2010/2011 delegated SEN funding is £88,942. Our SEN spending for children with unfunded statements and children without statements who require substantial support is **£19,606** per year more than the SEN income they attract.

We have one child without a statement who has full time support costing £23,371 per year.

ACTION: The working party observed that if a child requires this amount of support then the child should have a statement. **It follows therefore that we should use best endeavours to secure a statement for the child.**

The Working Party considered that:

Income and expenditure for children with special educational needs should be about the same unless the Governors expressly decide otherwise.

The Working Party observed that:

Some children have on some occasions become over dependant on their Teaching Assistants.

The Working Party recognised that:

There are staffing difficulties arising from reducing support slightly. Generally a Teaching Assistant is attached to the particular child every morning or afternoon and all morning or all afternoon.

ACTION: Robyn H and Eileen W to bring forward proposals to reduce one to one support slightly and to use one to one support and general support more flexibly.

4. Idea of amalgamating SEN and equal opportunities working parties

The Governing body is considering whether to amalgamate the Special Educational Needs Working Party and the Equal Opportunities Working Party. The working party considered that this would not save time or meetings. The way the two committees work is very different. Special needs is concerned with providing extra resources for individual children. Equal opportunities is about eliminating discrimination throughout the school. SEN working party could take over responsibility for disability discrimination from Equal Opportunities working Party

5. Annual Reviews

External Governors have attended four annual reviews since the last meeting. These included reviews for three children who are leaving us this summer. The children joined in the whole of their reviews. We welcomed the attendance of Special Educational Needs Coordinators from Haberdashers' Aske's, Kingsdale and Forest Hill Boys. We were impressed with the enthusiasm for our children. The SENCO from Kingsdale told the child and parents that they could come and visit the school any time they wanted. *Any problems give me a ring,* He said handing over his mobile phone number.

6. Individual Children

We discussed individual children. In one case a parent would like the child to stay in year 1 for a further year. The final decision rests with Linda Ewers but it is up to Robyn H to make a recommendation. School has previously had children taught one year below their chronological year group. Southwark does not have a policy view about doing this. It might cause a problem at secondary transfer, but that could be resolved by the wording in a statement of special educational needs.

7. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 27 September 2010 6:30 at 62 Oakhurst Grove.