

PORTSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at
4.30 pm at Portsmouth City Council's Civic Offices, in Ground Floor Meeting
Room 3.

Present

Group A Representatives

Peter Davies, The Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches (In the Chair)
Marilyn Leggett, The Salvation Army
Elizabeth Jenkerson, Baha'i Faith
Geoff Wheeler, Baptist Union
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Mr Syed Aminul Haque, Islam

Group B Representatives

Emily Fletcher, Anglican Diocese

Group C Representatives

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative
Patrick Quirke, Secondary Teacher Representative
Sarah Sadler, Primary School Representative

Group D Representatives

Maria Cole, Portsmouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter

Also in Attendance

Sarah Long, Local Authority Representative
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Democratic Services
Pat Hannam, H.I.A.S. Inspector Adviser

13 Welcome and Introduction (AI 1)

The chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

14 Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no interests declared.

15 Moment for Quiet Reflection (AI 3)

Peter Davies led the moment of reflection with his musings over the use of the word "thankfulness", indicating that it is often misused and reserved for special occasions. Peter suggested that thankfulness should be used all the time, with, as Peter put it 'every day being thankful'.

16 Apologies for Absence (AI 4)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Horne, Councillor Lynne Stagg and also Sandra Gibbs, Juliette Shaw, Sue Vigar-Taylor, Jane Lewis, Renuka Vyas, Taki Jaffer, Paula Withers, Rachel McKeever, John Spiegelhalter and Brian Hay.

17 Any items for AOB (AI 5)

The following items were raised to be discussed later in the meeting;

- a) Peter Davies - SACRE Network meetings
- b) Maria Cole - Civic Services
- c) Patrick Quirke - His replacement on SACRE
- d) Peter Davies - The co-opting of former SACRE member

18 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 12 March 2013 (AI 6)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

The minutes of the SACRE meeting were reviewed, with two amendments in the apologies for absence, the inclusion of Emily Fletcher and the removal of Jane Lewis, as Jane Lewis was present.

Minute 6 (b) in the first paragraph to include "at the synagogue" after the words "five teachers".

Minute 9 in paragraph seven, correction of "St. Culham" to "Culham St. Gabriel's".

Minute 9 in paragraph eight, correction in that it is Elizabeth Jenkerson who declared an interest with Westhill, not Ruth Guyer.

Incorporating these amendments, it was proposed by Ruth Guyer and seconded by Elizabeth Jenkerson that the minutes be agreed as a correct record.

Resolved that the minutes were approved subject to the amendments above.

19 Matters Arising (AI 7)

(a) Minute No 6 c - RE Boxes

Sarah Long explained that she is consulting with the Local Authority about giving the RE Boxes a web presence on its website. Sarah also confirmed that Peter Davies's 2013 Student Enrichment Conference presentation is on the website.

Sarah Long asked SACRE members again for further information about each of the contents of the RE boxes. It would be very welcome and could provide more support for the teachers who use them

(b) Minute No 6 d - Information sharing

The clerk tabled details of the previous two years of GCSE Religious Education results for Portsmouth Schools. Concern was raised as to whether this information should be public or not. SACRE therefore agreed to return all copies pending confirmation on the status of the information.

RESOLVED that the: Clerk confirms the status of previous RE GCSE results and reports back to SACRE.

20 Finance Sub Committee Minutes held on 12 March 2014 and 14 May 2014 (AI 8)

SACRE members reviewed the minutes of the Finance sub-committee of the 14 May 2014. Elizabeth Jenkerson questioned the comment on page 8, stating that role of SACRE is monitor as set out in 2010 guidance, contrary to the statement in the minutes. Concern was expressed that SACRE needs to be careful to be a critical friend to assist teachers and schools and not be seen as a body that would prevent schools working with SACRE.

An amendment to the first paragraph on page 9, changing Culham to Westhill was also requested.

RESOLVED that subject to the amendments above the finance sub-committee minutes be approved.

21 Planned Projected Budget Expenditure for 2014/15 (AI 9)

Following concerns previously raised by SACRE members, it was agreed that the SACRE budget be detailed showing planned spending commitments and priorities.

SACRE members noted the planned spending priorities.

Members of SACRE reiterated that it would be useful to invite again the Council's finance officer to help explain the SACRE budget and accounting.

Patricia Hannam commented on the suggestion that she run a secondary school 'conference', that it might be more useful to run it as a 'course' instead.

22 Student Enrichment Day on July 3rd 2014 - Sue Ganter to report on developments so far (AI 10)

Sue Ganter reported to SACRE her disappointment that only six out of the nine schools are expected to attend the conference, currently equating to 80 students.

Some key factors impacting on delivering the conference are;

- Permissions for students to attend not being obtained;
- A clash with a Geography field trip
- KS3 exams have moved

Sue Ganter expressed her disappointment with these issues, especially given the fact that schools have known about the conference since January.

Sue suggested that in order to reach the numbers desired, that the offer to attend the conference could be extended to other schools, to include Year 6 students. It was noted however that this would not allow much time for schools to prepare and gather associated permissions.

Elizabeth Jenkerson noted that it would perhaps be prudent to highlight that part of the conference includes representatives from professional undertakers, which might be a concern to some parents.

Sue Ganter expressed her hope that the teachers would prepare their students and that both pupils and teachers will be encouraged to ask questions on the day and if possible, given the short notice, submit questions in advance.

SACRE members are welcome to come along and help on the day of the conference and bring their cameras.

Sue Ganter further suggested that it might be useful to provide more advice to the workshop contributors, including holding meetings before the conference.

Sue Ganter informed members that she estimates that so far she has spent 125 hours working on the conference. Even with the help of EMAS providing basic administration, for which she is grateful, this still amounts to a lot of work. Patrick Quirke added that when he ran the conference, his head teacher allowed him to use the school's admin staff, and supported Sue's position that it would be a very difficult task for one person to do alone.

The discussion then moved on to whether there will be a 2015 student conference. Sue Ganter suggested that a future conference could perhaps be extended to include South East Hampshire and Years 7,8 and 9.

It was noted that it would be too late to apply for a suitable grant from NASACRE/Westhill and the deadline for grant applications from Culham St. Gabriel's is in September.

Peter Davies suggested that the clerk canvass opinions from SACRE members by email on the future of the Student Conference and that this be placed on the November agenda as a main discussion item.

RESOLVED that the Clerk
o emails members of SACRE for their opinions on future Student
Conferences and;
(2) to add as a main agenda item for the November meeting "Future of
the Student Conference"

23 SACRE Website (AI 11)

The Chair, Peter Davies reported that at present, SACRE has a web presence thanks to EMAS but, at this time have not progressed any further with its own.

24 RE Twilight (AI 12)

Beverley Millsom reported the last RE Twilight took place on 10 June 2014 at Flying Bull School and seven teachers attended. Ms Millsom further commented on the very informative presentation they received at this event, which was well received by all.

Beverley Millsom thanked SACRE for the substitute days. Details of the next 3 network meetings will be circulated

25 School Visits - with Patricia Hannam (AI 13)

Patricia Hannam reported on the four school visits so far to Portsmouth schools.

Comments:

- Teaching in Portsmouth: what she has seen so far is good and SACRE need not be worried.
- Only one of the four schools was concerned by the visit; all schools showed a willingness to understand and improve.
- Possible inclusion of Portsmouth on the new revision of the "agreed syllabus" with Hampshire in 2015/16
- Patricia Hannam proposed her four recommendations to SACRE for their consideration as follows;
 - That a monitoring sub-group is convened by SACRE to meet twice a year to receive the confidential monitoring reports and discuss GCSE results
 - That the other secondary schools in Portsmouth are visited during the autumn term and further reports are brought to future SACRE meetings
 - That secondary and primary schools are invited to training sessions on LDR11
 - That SACRE write to all schools, primary, secondary and academies, reminding them of their statutory duty to teach RE.
- Patricia Hannam explained that new grades were being introduced (i.e. A* - G is being replaced by a numerical system, with 7 = A and 4 = 4)

Peter Davies and Portsmouth SACRE thanked Patricia Hannam for her work and report.

26 Any other business (AI 14)

a) SACRE Networking Meetings

Elizabeth Jenkerson reported that she had attended a NASACRE meeting recently, with Stephen Lloyd as the main speaker who impressed her with his knowledge. Similarly, Patricia Hannam who also attended said the meeting, proved to be of great value.

b) Co-opting proposal

It was proposed by Sue Ganter and seconded by Geoff Wheeler, that following the requirement by law of the resignation of Patrick Quirke, that he be co-opted on to SACRE. Following a constitutional discussion it was agreed in principle but will be subject to an email vote that will be arranged by the Clerk.

Maria Cole also wished to add that this may be her last meeting as the Council representative due to the recent Local Council Elections. Everyone agreed that Maria would continue to be welcome to both receive the details of future meetings of SACRE and attend should she cease to be an appointed member.

RESOLVED:

(1) that the Clerk email voting members concerning the proposal to co-opt Patrick Quirke on to SACRE

(2) that the Clerk continue to send details of SACRE meetings to Maria Cole should she cease being one of the Council's representatives.

c) Civic Services and events

It was suggested by Maria Cole that members of SACRE might benefit by receiving details of Portsmouth's civic services and events throughout the year and this was agreed.

RESOLVED: that the clerk find out about these events and circulates them by email to all SACRE members.

27 Date of the next Meeting (AI 15)

SACRE members noted that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 4:30pm. It is hoped that this meeting of SACRE can be held at a faith venue to be confirmed.

28 Suggested Dates for 2014/15 Meetings (AI 16)

The following dates were agreed, with the venues still to be confirmed

- Wednesday 12 November 2014
- Wednesday 11 March 2015
- Wednesday 17 June 2015

Meeting concluded at 6:16pm.

Chair