

PORPSMOUTH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 4.30 pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

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
Ruth Guyer, Judaism
Jane Lewis, Quaker

Group B Representatives

Richard Wharton, C of E Diocese
Brian Hay, Anglican Diocese

Group C Representatives

Beverley Millsom, Special School Representative
Eleanor Assinder, Secondary Teacher Representative
Sandra Gibb, Primary School Representative

Group D Representatives

Flick Drummond, Portsmouth City Council
Taki Jaffer, Portsmouth City Council

Co-opted Representatives

Sue Ganter

Also in Attendance

Sarah Long, Local Authority Representative
Peter Smith-Parkyn, Democratic Services

29 Welcome and Introduction

The chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, particularly the two new members Flick Drummond and Eleanor Assinder.

30 Declarations of Interests

Elizabeth Jenkerson declared an interest in that she will be serving on Westhill next year.

31 Moment for Quiet Reflection

Elizabeth Jenkerson led the moment of reflection, as it was a holy day for her faith (the birth of the faith's founder, Baha'u'llah). Elizabeth shared a brief history of the Baha'i Faith whose origins started in Iran in 1844. Elizabeth also explained a number of the beliefs of her faith.

32 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Horne, Councillor Lynne Stagg and also Geoff Wheeler, Syed Aminul Haque, Sarah Sadler and John Spiegelhalter.

33 Items for a brief update or for a future agenda

Beverley Millsom informed the Council that three Twilight network dates have not yet been set and that she will inform SACRE members via email when they have been.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 25 June 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved subject to the following amendments:

To include in the first paragraph of minute 22 after the words "nine schools" the words "who originally signed up".

To include in the sixth paragraph of minute 22 after the words "prepare their students" the words "for funeral directors".

To replace "4 = 4" in bullet point 5 of minute 25 to "4 = C".

To include after "Stephen Lloyd" of minute 26 "(the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group)".

35 Matters Arising

(a) Minute No 23 - SACRE website

Peter Davies reported that he was unable to progress this as the Local Authority is reviewing its websites and content. More information will follow when available.

36 SACRE Budget

Rachel McKeever presented the current budgetary position for SACRE, indicating that taking into account known plans it is likely that there will be an underspend for this year. It was suggested that SACRE might see a reduction in its grant, given the financial pressures on Local Authorities and the grant provided to SACRE is not being fully used.

Jane Lewis commented that the budget document provided is really the SACRE accounts and should in future be referred to as such. Jane also suggested that the finance sub-committee could set the budget once the main SACRE body has identified its priorities for the year.

Both Peter Davies and Rachel McKeever highlighted the fact that any monies must be spent within the current financial year otherwise the remaining funds are returned to Local Authority.

RESOLVED that the budget be approved.

37

South Central HUB Meeting on 7 November 2014

(Report attached to the minutes)

Peter Davies presented his report on his attendance at the South Central HUB meeting; the key points raised were: What SACREs can do to support RE; Winchester University with regard to bursaries and St. Culham is keen to financially support the teaching of teachers of RE; Encouraging academies to teach RE to the Locally Agreed Syllabus and there was some concern over non-specialist teachers teaching RE. Sandra Gibb commented that some non-specialists and even non-teachers can do a good job, as it is their experience that counts.

Peter Davies strongly recommended that Portsmouth SACRE send two teachers to the next meeting scheduled for the 9 February 2015. Both Beverley Millsom and Eleanor Assinder provisionally volunteered, subject to agreement from their respective schools. Peter Davies offered that if their schools agree to release them, SACRE will cover both travel and supply teacher costs.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted and;**
- (2) Portsmouth SACRE send two teachers to the next South Central HUB meeting on 9 February 2015, subject to agreement of their schools and provides associated costs for travel and supply teacher cover.**

38 Student Enrichment Day Conference 2014

Sue Ganter reported to SACRE on 2014 Student Enrichment Conference which was based on the theme of "Diversity".

Sue Ganter showed her presentation on the conference, which included photos of the event and examples of the questions and answers sessions. Sue commented on the good responses and subsequent positive feedback from both students and contributors alike.

Special thanks were given to Rubi (from EMAS) from Sue Ganter, for her work in assisting her throughout the preparations of the conference and for her efforts at the last minute, which proved to be invaluable. Sue Ganter commented that serving teachers could not have done this work on top of their day job given the amount of time involved. Sue qualified this by adding that she herself had spent roughly 157 hours in both the preparation time and delivery of the conference.

Maria Cole (former SACRE member) commented that the conference felt happier and more relaxed and the students were more attentive.

Sue Ganter gave her sincere thanks to all who helped and took part, with particular mention of gratitude to Elizabeth Jenkerson and Peter Davies.

Sue Ganter concluded her presentation and announced that she is resigning from SACRE as a co-opted member but, offered to be the event manager for any future conferences.

Peter Davies thanked Sue for all her contributions over the years as a co-opted member of SACRE and for her work on the student conferences.

RESOLVED that Sue Ganter be thanked and the very best wishes for her future endeavours.

39 Future Student Enrichment Conferences

The clerk reported that he had canvassed opinion as requested and had received no correspondence from SACRE members on the matter of future student enrichment conferences.

Peter Davies started the debate on the future of student conferences, reiterating concerns that SACRE's budget for the next and future years has yet to be determined. Elizabeth Jenkerson suggested that external grants could be sought to fund the event as had been done previously. It was suggested that perhaps the conference could be run every other year.

Ruth Guyer suggested that to address concerns over the number of students attending, posing that future conferences could increase the number of students by including more school years. Sue Ganter added that Year 10 is the ideally level for the conference but could be pitched to younger years, perhaps down to Year 7.

Sue Ganter suggested the possibility of a joint conference in 2016 with Hampshire schools by liaising with Patricia Hannam. Brian Hay expressed concern regarding the location of the joint conference.

Flick Drummond commented that whilst funding is likely to be difficult, other funding opportunities are available. In addition a future conference could focus on radicalism and other similarly topical matters thereby encouraging interest and learning.

Sue Ganter agreed that funding opportunities do exist and completing bids for grants is the more immediate concern as these take time. A 2015 student conference is therefore possible, if SACRE can apply for appropriate grants in time.

Jane Lewis commented that she was greatly impressed with the 2014 conference. This sentiment was echoed by other members of SACRE.

Jane Lewis proposed, that Sue Ganter investigate sources of funding for a 2015 conference. This was seconded by Elizabeth Jenkerson.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Sue Ganter investigate funding opportunities with a view to run a Student Conference in 2015 and to liaise with the Clerk on any ensuing bidding process to obtain a grant and;**
- (2) That should external funding not be obtained for 2015, that**

SACRE work with Patricia Hannam towards providing a joint Hampshire/Portsmouth Student Conference in 2016.

40 SACRE Membership and Elections

The clerk explained members of SACRE are appointed for four years and the period of service as Chair or Vice Chair is two years. As there has been some doubt over membership and current length of service, it was agreed that the current members of groups A, B and C be renewed for the period of four years.

Peter Davies informed the Council of his intention to stand down as the Chair of Portsmouth SACRE. Ruth Guyer, the Vice Chair stated that whilst she was happy to continue as Vice Chair, she did not intend to put herself forward to be the Chair. Ruth added that she had been the Vice Chair for a number of years and would welcome the opportunity for another to take over as she was mindful that these positions should be reviewed and shared.

RESOLVED that;

- (1) SACRE membership for groups A, B and C members be renewed from this date for a period of four years and;**
- (2) Nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair be given to the clerk before the next scheduled meeting, for election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

41 Any Other business

Beverly Millsom informed SACRE members of the Special Christmas Celebration on 3 December in Portsmouth Cathedral. Anyone interested in attending should contact her for tickets.

42 Date of the next meeting and venues

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 4:30pm.

Peter Davies indicated that is desirable for the meeting to be held at a faith venue and would welcome any suggestions/volunteers.

Taki Jaffer stated that he will check with the new Mosque in Fareham and will let the clerk know whether the SACRE could hold its next meeting there.

Meeting concluded at 6:28pm.

Chair