

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Local Authority School Governor
Appointments Panel**
held on Friday, 22nd October, 2010 in The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor D Thompson (Chairman)
Councillor G Merry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors B H Dykes, H Gaddum, T Jackson and M A Martin

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

| | |
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| Andy Kent | Liaison Manager, Schools Settings and Services |
| Ruth Agnew | Principal Officer, Services for Children and Families |
| Carol Jones | Democratic Services Officer |

APOLOGIES

Councillor S Jones

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda. Declarations of interest were made, as appropriate, during discussion of the item of business in which there was an interest.

8 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

In accordance with Procedure Rules 11 and 35, a total of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to address the Panel on any matter relevant to its work.

There were no members of the public in attendance and the Panel, therefore, proceeded to its next business.

9 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2010 be approved as a correct record.

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of

the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing this information.

11 LOCAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

The Local Authority School Governor Appointments Panel considered the report of the Director of Children and Family Services which informed Members of the current Authority Governor vacancies within Cheshire East maintained schools in the context of vacancies at a national level, and recommended individuals for appointment and reappointment.

Additional information in respect of new appointments and reappointments was tabled at the meeting.

There were 353 Authority Governor positions across Cheshire East's 148 maintained schools. Of those, 59 (16.7%) were vacant. The 2010 national benchmarking information showed 11.2% of all Authority Governor positions to be vacant and 11.2% of all governor positions (of all categories) to be vacant, nationally. If the Panel were to confirm all appointments/re-appointments proposed, the number of vacancies would reduce to 45.

11.1 The Panel was invited to approve new appointments with effect from 23 October 2010 for a four-year term of office.

RESOLVED: (a) That the appointments detailed be approved with effect from 23 October 2010 for a four-year term of office;

(b) That Mr Edward Liptrot be appointed as an Authority Governor at Underwood West Primary School, Crewe, with effect from 23 October 2010 for a four-year term of office, subject to the outcome of a meeting to be arranged with the Headteacher of that school;

(c) That, in respect of the two unsuccessful candidates for the one vacancy at Monks Coppenhall School, the Chairman, in consultation with the Liaison Manager, Schools Settings and Services, be authorised to offer the most appropriate candidate a place at Mablings Lane School, Crewe and the other candidate a place on another Governing Body within the Cheshire East area;

(d) That the Liaison Manager, Schools Settings and Services be authorised to interview the candidate who had expressed an interest in becoming a governor at Sir William Stanier High School, Crewe or Macclesfield High School, with a view to clarification of her preference; and

(e) That, subject to the outcome of the interview (item (d) above), the Liaison Manager appoint the candidate to whichever of the two schools

was appropriate, and the Panel be informed of the appointment at its next meeting.

- 1 Ashgrove Primary, Macclesfield
Mr Barrie Hardern
- 2 Dean Oaks Primary School, Wilmslow
Mrs Joanne Milnes
- 3 Elworth Hall Primary, Sandbach
Councillor S Furlong
Mrs S Scragg
- 4 Gawsworth Primary, Macclesfield
Mr Neil Gunn
- 5 Havannah Primary, Congleton
Mrs Brenda Wood
- 6 Hermitage Primary, Crewe
Rev Helen Kirk
- 7 Mablins Lane Primary, Crewe
Mrs Maureen Grant
- 8 Middlewich Primary School
Mrs Maureen Leverington
- 9 Monks Coppenhall Primary, Crewe
Mrs Clare Robinson
- 10 Wilmslow High School
Mr Lee Dooley
- 11 Willaston Primary, Nantwich
Mrs Diane Smith
- 12 Wincle CE Primary
Mr Russell Palmer
- 13 Wistaston Church Lane, Crewe
Mr Thomas Clutton
- 14 Calveley School
Mrs F Stott
- 15 Eaton Bank School
Ms J Best

- 16 High Legh Primary
Mr R Taylor
- 17 Pear Tree Primary
Mr N Davies
- 18 Upton Priory School
Mr I R Mackintosh

11.2 In accordance with agreed procedures for emergency Authority Governor appointments to be made to schools in the Council's "Improving Outcomes Programme" (IOP), formerly known as the "Schools Causing Concern" (SCC) programme, seven appointments had been made since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be noted:

- 19 The Berkeley Primary School, Wistaston
Mrs Karon Crimes
Mr Ernest Charlton
- 20 Millfields Primary, Nantwich
Mr Tony Williams
Mrs Sarah Perris-Myatt
Mrs Diana Morrison
- 21 Ruskin Sports College, Crewe
Mrs Diane Skupham
- 22 Shavington High School
Councillor Margaret Simon

11.3 The Panel was invited to approve reappointments for a further four-year term of office for individuals who had requested reappointment.

RESOLVED:

That the following individuals be re-appointed for a further four-year term of office in their current school, starting from the day after their term of office comes to an end, or, where the term of office has already ended, from 23 October 2010.

- | | | |
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| 23 | Beechwood Primary, Crewe Mr John Edwards | 23/10/10 |
| 24 | Nether Alderley Mr Geoffrey Gorton | 23/10/10 |
| 25 | Edleston Primary, Crewe Mrs Ann Jones | 14/11/10 |

| | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 26 | Knutsford High School Councillor George Walton | 23/10/10 |
| 27 | St Paul's Catholic Primary School Mr J Hogan | 22/01/2011 |

11.4 It was noted that Brine Leas School (together with Fallibroome High School) had been granted Academy status in September 2010. Brine Leas had opted to retain an Authority Governor position and the Panel was invited to make an appointment.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Andrew Martin be appointed as Authority Governor at Brine Leas High School, Nantwich, for a four-year term of office with effect from 23 October 2010.

(Note: Each Member of the Panel made a declaration of personal interest in this item on the basis that he was a Council colleague.)

11.5 There was a vacancy at Styal Primary School and one applicant for the vacancy. Members declined to make an appointment at this time, and agreed that there should be further discussions with the candidate.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Liaison Manager, Schools Settings and Services, be authorised to make the appointment to Styal Primary School subject to the satisfactory outcome of his interview with the candidate; and

(b) That the Panel be informed of the outcome at the next meeting.

11.6 Procedure for Dealing with Authority Governor Places

During discussion, Members explored the possibility of a revised procedure for making appointments to school governing bodies, particularly where there were more applicants than vacancies, to ensure a more equitable process.

RESOLVED: That a special meeting of the Panel be held on Wednesday, 1 December at 10.30 am in the Capesthorne Room, Macclesfield Town Hall to consider a report on revisions to the procedure, for submission to an early meeting of the Constitution Committee.

(Note: The following declarations of interest were made by Members during the meeting:

Councillor D Thompson

Personal interest –

Item 3 (Elworth Hall Primary School – Councillor S Furlong) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;

Item 22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague);

Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague; and
Item 26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague.

Councillor H Gaddum: Personal interest –

Item 1 (Ashgrove Primary School – Mr Barrie Hardern) on the basis that he was a former County Councillor and was Chairman of the local Conservative branch, of which she was a member.

Item 3 (Elworth Hall Primary School – Councillor S Furlong on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague);

Item 22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague);

Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;

Item 26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague.

Councillor B H Dykes: Personal interest –

3 (Elworth Hall Primary School – Councillor S Furlong) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;

Item 7 (Mablins Lane Primary – Mrs Maureen Grant) on the basis that she had been a Council colleague at the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council;

Item 22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;

Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that he was a Council colleague;

Item 26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague.

Councillor T Jackson: Personal and prejudicial interest in Item 1 (Ashgrove Primary School) on the basis that she was a close friend of the applicant, Mr Barrie Hardern. Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, Councillor Jackson withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the item and re-joined the meeting after the Panel had voted on the item.

Personal interest –

Item 3 (Elworth Hall Primary School – Councillor S Furlong) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;

Item 22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon);

Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that he was a Council colleague;

Item 26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague.

Councillor M A Martin: Personal interest –

Item 1 (Ashgrove Primary School – Mr Barrie Hardern) on the basis that he was a member of the Fostering Panel on which Councillor Martin also served.

*Item 3 (Elworth Hall Primary School – Councillor S Furlong);
Item 7 (Mablins Lane Primary, Crewe – Mrs Maureen Grant) on the basis that she had been a Council colleague at the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council;
Item 9 (Monks Coppenhall Primary) on the basis that she was a former LEA Governor at the school;
22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague);
Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that he was a Council colleague; and
26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague.*

Councillor G Merry: *Personal interest –*

*Item 3 (Elworth Hall Primary, Sandbach) on the basis that she was a Council colleague of Councillor S Furlong and was acquainted with Mrs S Scragg, the other applicant.
Item 6 (Hermitage Primary, Crewe – Rev Helen Kirk) on the basis of an occasional business relationship with the applicant.
Item 22 (Shavington High School – Councillor Margaret Simon) on the basis that the applicant was a Council colleague;
Minute No. 11.4 (Brine Leas School – Councillor Andrew Martin) on the basis that he was a Council colleague;
Item 26 (Knutsford High School – Councillor George Walton); on the basis that the applicant was a Councillor colleague.)*

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that a special meeting be held on **Wednesday, 1st December 2010 at 10.30 am** to discuss the revised procedure described in Minute No. 11.6 above, together with any applications which may be received before that date.

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was 4 February 2011.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.10 pm

Councillor D Thompson (Chairman)