



North
East
Strategic
Partnership for
Sustainable
Schools

NEEN/ NESPSS Board Meeting
Tuesday 25th April 2007
Ellison Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle

Present

Mike Tones, Roger Candy, Rich Hurst, Dave Smith, Robin Casson, Sally Preston, Steve Gater, Frances Hinton and Neil Alderman

Apologies

Chris Welton, out of the country.

Rachel Ford, on holiday

Lorraine Coulson, wishes to be kept informed but unable to commit to the Board.

Minutes of Last Meeting

- ❖ Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

- ❖ RC welcomed everyone to the meeting
- ❖ All present have been formally placed on the Board with Companies House.
- ❖ MT stated that it is likely that there will be a national forum for Sustainable Schools comprising Local Authorities and NGO's
- ❖ DS keen to ensure support from LA's in the region. He has had correspondence from:
 - John Collins, Assistant Director of CS at Hartlepool
 - Eileen Wilkinson, Senior Primary Advisor in Redcar & Cleveland BC

Action: DS to arrange a meeting of LA regional Children's Services reps in early June at GONE offices in Newcastle. Involve existing contacts and try to encourage others.

Proposal for Allocation of DFES/ GONE Sustainable Schools Funding

- ❖ RH discussed funding information handed out to the board. First sheet provided a summary on how funds from GONE were allocated from 2006-7 financial year. Second page provided more specific detail on the allocation for reference.
- ❖ RH then highlighted the suggestions for how the DFES funding via GONE could be allocated to the region.
- ❖ RH stated that a formal application had not been submitted by Newcastle City Council to fund a schools event which had been discussed with DS and RH.

Action: No decision made on funding allocation, deferred to next meeting.

Northern Sustainable Schools Conference

- ❖ RH made Board aware of paper giving a brief outline of the current proposal for a three regions conference.
- ❖ The initial proposal was to hold it in Leeds in November 2007. It was decided that this timescale could not be met so the proposal is to hold it in March 2008 at The Leeds Marriott.

Suggestions from the Board

- ❖ It must be a compelling case to justify two days of time.
- ❖ Must link to raising achievement
- ❖ Sustainable Development has yet to reach its audience
- ❖ DfES is looking to bring together Sustainable Schools, ECM, Youth Agenda and Standards

- ❖ Conference must raise the profile and spread the message of Sustainable Schools.
 - ❖ Could link to DoTT 07, as that has a sustainability focus, Science City and Sustainable Communities Agenda
 - ❖ SG has concerns over timing of an event to ensure it doesn't clash with other events
 - ❖ Could link to Becta e-strategy and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
- Action:** RH to correspond with SG via e-mail to further proposals

Next Steps

- ❖ SA mentioned DfES at NE Science Learning Centre on 10th May which will investigate Engagement and enrichment of pupils engaged with science. Links to Science City Education strategy.
- ❖ Issue of how to engage other partners
- ❖ Representation of the NEEN/NESPSS Board. Noted that it would benefit from private sector and voluntary sector representation. RH highlighted that Northumbrian Water and Hydropolymers had been contacted, both companies are currently unable to send a representative. Voluntary sector representation requires further discussion.
- ❖ Three issues for the Board
 - Ensure that Board operates in a business like fashion during this transition period
 - Agree new representation on the Board and structure (maximum of 16 Board members allowed according to charity articles, suggested 10-12 would be preferable)
 - Agree future activity and funding

Internal Company Issues

- ❖ RC and NA both plan to step down from the Board in the near future. So the Board need to appoint a new Chair and Treasurer.
- ❖ Suggestion that Board may wish to appoint a part time financial administrator to ensure accounts are in order as the Board deals with larger funds.
- ❖ NA highlighted the need that Board members need to be made aware to the Cooperative Bank and have proof of their identity (NA has forms). Trustees need proof of ID (ie with a photo) and proof of address.

Action: NA to send appropriate paperwork to RC to disseminate to Board.

Action: RH to become a signatory of the NEEN account. NA and RH to sort.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th June at Northumbria University, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle,
5.30pm- 7.30pm.