

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on
Tuesday 15.3.22 at The Stanley Room, St Mary's Millennium Centre,
West Derby Village, Meadow Lane, Liverpool L12 5EA.

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

A minute of silent reflection was held in respect of the death of LGF colleague Frank McFarlane.

Present: Michael Morris (Chair), David Blythe (Hon Secretary), Kathy Desmond, Dave Cadwallader, David Owens, Marlene Taylor, Maureen McDaid, Cliff Barton, John Thornhill

Apologies: Andy Chadwick, Joe Hartley, Richard Lovegrove, Mary Donohue, Avril O'Brien, Danielle Azanuwha, Barbara Murray, Maureen McDaid.

Guest speaker: Brendan Purcell, LA Energy Manager was welcomed to the meeting.
Please see Appendix A.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

DB is Chair of Trustees for St Mary's Millennium Centre, the venue for today's meeting.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

Summary of Actions	
Mosspit School to be approached re LGF meetings on 24.5.22 or 12.7.22. Confirmed 24.5.22 at Mosspit Lane School – NB 10:15 start	DO/DB
John Thornhill to be contacted re continued service on LGF Actioned	DB
Director of Education to be invited to LGF meeting to be held on 24.5.22 No response yet. To be chased up. Change of date or option of Zoom format to be offered.	DC

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB confirmed that the current LGF bank account balance is £1843.22. DB reported he is chasing up associations with outstanding invoices. £2700 has recently been received via BACs from the Primary Heads Association. A payment from LASH is expected. It was noted that in future LGF income could be detrimentally affected by catholic schools withdrawing to join MATs (Multi Agency Trusts) JT reminded the meeting that by 2025 all schools should be academies. It was suggested that the topic of 'Academisation' would be an ideal subject for a future LGF meeting. DC highlighted that this would be an item for the Director of Education to address if he is able to attend the LGF meeting to be held in May 2022. Hopefully the awaited Green Paper will have been published by then. Concern was expressed that schools may be forced into becoming part of a multi academy trust by 2025 rather than having a choice of which Trust to join. It was agreed that this needed to be discussed further once the Green Paper has been published.

2.2 Feedback from Events

Not applicable.

MM stated that he had attended SIL training recently and had found the recent Safer Recruitment training particularly useful.

2.3 Future Events

Dates for the next LGF Conference were discussed.

DB remarked that events appear not to be taking place at the moment. DC confirmed that Toxteth Annex was open and is prepared to operate at full capacity however delegates appear to prefer reduced capacity.

As attendance at the conference can fluctuate between 30 -70 it was suggested that LGF book the largest room in Partnership for Learning to allow attendees additional room despite the potential extra cost. It was noted that the guest speaker was not charging LGF for his presentation.

It was suggested that the conference should be held on a Saturday morning in June or July. DC is to book the room once MM, KD and the speaker have confirmed the most convenient date. Noted that Hope School or Gateacre School could be an alternative venue.

It was suggested that breakfast (bacon sandwich/ croissant) should be offered at 9:00 -9:30 then the conference would be held from 9:30 – 12:00

Future LGF Meetings Dates and Venues Confirmed

24.5.22 – Mossfits Lane Primary School confirmed. Please note the meeting will start at 10:15.

12.7.24 - Arch Bishop Blanch School confirmed

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date.

2.5 Twitter Account

Not applicable

2.6 Others

Not Applicable

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

CB reported that a short meeting had been held on Wednesday 8 March 2022. The Total School Budget was presented. A slight increase in the budget was noted.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

MM reported that he had attended a meeting at which the question ‘What is the purpose of the group?’ was asked. A review of the groups’ performance over the last 10 years is to be held to inform the purpose of the group for the next 10 years. A levy of £2.00 per pupil for LLP membership will continue.

3.3 LLP All Learners

The next meeting will be held on 11.5.22.

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

The next meeting will be held on 16.5.22.

3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Partnership

It was noted that a new representative needs to be confirmed due to the recent death of Frank McFarlane. It was agreed that more information regarding the remit of the partnership is needed before a new representative is agreed. DC is to contact LSP for more information.

MM is to represent LGF if any meetings arise before a LGF representative is agreed.

This is to be an agenda item for the LGF meeting to be held on 24.5.22.

3.7 LCC Priority

Not Applicable

3.8 Other

Not Applicable

4.0 Other Items

4.1 NGA

Membership on the NGA website has been updated.

4.2 Other

The death of Frank McFarlane has left a vacancy for Vice Chair of LGF. DB proposed Maureen McDaid serves as Vice Chair; DC seconded the proposal. The meeting unanimously approved the proposal. MMc had indicated she was prepared to act as Vice Chair prior to the meeting.

MM informed the meeting that the funeral of Frank McFarlane is to be held on 24.3.22 at 1:00pm in St Peter's Church in Woolton. DB, KD, AO'B and MM indicated that they intend to attend. DB confirmed he had sent a condolence card on behalf of LGF

The meeting concluded at 11.39

Summary of Actions	
Governor's News to be contacted re Energy usage in schools	MM
Liverpool Safeguarding Partnership to be contacted re information	DC

Next meeting:

The next committee meeting will be at Mosspits Lane Primary School, Moss Pits Lane, Liverpool L15 6UN on 24.5.22. Please note the meeting will begin at **10:15**.

Annex A

Brendan Purcell, LA Energy Manager addressed the meeting and delivered a power point presentation which is to be uploaded to the LGF website.

BP began his presentation by informing the meeting that due to current market forces the situation re energy costs was difficult to predict. He highlighted that historically schools that had subscribed to the LA SLA had benefitted financially however the current contract with suppliers is about to come to an end and the suppliers trade desks are closed at the moment because of the fluctuating cost of energy due to the unstable fundamental indicators' suppliers would normally use. BP assured the meeting that, as soon as it is possible, the LA will be securing suppliers so a budget can be set, and the costs confirmed with member schools. It was noted that when the current contracts end schools will be charged for their energy usage on a monthly basis until a contract is agreed.

It was noted that schools do not have to subscribe to the LA SLA and are free to source their own energy contracts. If a school leaves the contract, it is free to return however if an academy leaves at the end of the contract they cannot re-join.

BP stated that a 300% increase is the cost of electricity and an increase of 200% in the cost of gas expected for 2023

BP highlighted the importance of monitoring energy usage in schools and using this information to be proactive in reducing the amount/type of energy used. He used the data of an anonymous primary school to illustrate how the data collected can inform actions and decisions e.g., the school used 67% of its energy at times when the school would be expected to be closed. This needs to be investigated and addressed. BP confirmed that he can provide this information for individual schools.

BP also highlighted that the most expensive electricity charge is between 16:30 and 17:30. If schools were to ensure no unnecessary equipment/lights etc were being used during this time the savings could be made.

It was noted that the LA is currently on 55% of its target to only use renewable energy by 2050. By 2035 it is hoped nuclear fusion will be a source of energy.

BP suggested that schools need to follow the following steps to reduce their energy use and increase their use of renewable energy:

1. Implement surveys
2. Survey of all energy consumers
3. Put controls in place
4. In-house Policies/ Targets/ Timelines/ Cost
5. Monitor Everything

KD asked why only a few schools use solar panels as a source of energy. BP replied that schools need to consider this on an individual basis given their construction, location etc. Examples of the advantages and disadvantages of solar power were shared.

BP asked how many governors knew if their school had policies about energy usage or have a budget to improve energy efficiency. Governors agreed that this was something that they needed to take up with their individual schools.

BP suggested that an Action Plan to increase the use of renewable energy should include:

1. Know your data
2. Let it grow (plant trees etc that absorb carbon and water)
3. Maximise 'no cost' efficiencies
4. Viable renewable sources
5. The gap?

In summary BP said that doing nothing will result in schools paying for expensive energy costs and increased Carbon Tax.

BP was thanked for his informative presentation.

MM commented that BP's presentation emphasised the question asked at LGF's last meeting i.e. How can we do better? MM stated he will be contacting his school's Business Manager to see if data is available for his school to make informed decisions. KD suggested that Governors News should be contacted to ascertain if governors are aware of their school's policies, energy use etc. MM to organise this after checking the letter's content with BP.