



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE (RHYMNEY ROOM)
ON MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2013 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D.M. Gray - Chairman
Councillor J. Taylor - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

D.G. Carter and W. David.

Representing Teaching Organisations: Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N. Boardman (NUT) and Mrs B. Davies (UCAC).

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church) and Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales).

Together with:

V. Thomas (RE Consultant), K. Cole (Manager Learning, Education and Inclusion) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G.D. Oliver and Mrs M.E. Sargent. Teacher Representatives Miss H. Marsh (ASCL) and Mrs D. Williams (NASUWT). Religious Organisations Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan) and Lieutenant C. Di-Palma (Salvation Army).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

It was with great sadness that the Chairman acknowledged the recent passing of Councillor Mrs Anne Collins, former Member of SACRE. Members and Officers stood for a minute silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Councillor D.M. Gray opened proceedings with a moment of quiet reflection and read from a poem by Helena Steiner Rice entitled 'Brighten The Corner Where You Are.'

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the meeting held on the 28th February 2013 (minute nos. 1-11 on page nos. 1-5) be approved as correct records and signed by the chairman.

3. SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The report updated Members with regard to the current SACRE membership and highlighted the position in terms of vacant places.

Members noted the efforts of the Clerk to SACRE to secure representation onto the Council and noted that Cytun had been contacted with regard to filling the Free Churches vacancy. Members noted the poor attendance record of certain Teacher representatives and requested that they be written to in order to confirm whether or not they wished to remain on the SACRE membership.

Members also requested that further representations be made to the appropriate teaching associations in order to fill the current vacancies by the date of the next meeting.

SACRE having fully discussed its content noted the report.

4. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS SPRING 2013

The report informed SACRE of the main findings of the Spring 2013 School Inspection reports.

During this period fourteen Caerphilly schools were inspected and nine reports were available for analysis. The composition of the schools inspected was confirmed and Members noted the main findings for each was detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The comments of the inspectors in relation to Spiritual Development and Collective Worship were noted and Members were pleased to see the good features noted in the infant, primary and junior schools reports and commended Trinity Fields Special School on the promotion of pupil's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. However inspectors noted that neither Pontllanfraith nor St Cenydd Comprehensive schools had met their statutory requirements for the daily act of collective worship.

Members acknowledged the difficulties in bringing together a whole school for collective worship and asked that the Clerk to SACRE contact Pontllanfraith and St Cenydd and request copies of their action plans to demonstrate how they intended to address the recommendation and meet statutory requirements for acts of collective worship.

5. ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The report updated Members on the Estyn Thematic Review of the standard of Religious Education in Secondary Schools.

The review looked at the standards of RE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and the standards in GCSE Religious Studies for pupils that are entered and would also comment on learning experiences, the quality of teaching and assessments as well as the effectiveness of leadership and management. A sample of 20 schools were visited between November and December 2012 which included Caerphilly school, St Martins Comprehensive. Additional schools were asked to complete a questionnaire about provision for RE, which would be coupled with evidence from recent inspections.

The review's report was currently with the Minister for Education and Mrs Thomas confirmed that WASACRE had been invited to review it prior to its publication on the 18th June and would be presented during the Autumn Term WASACRE conference.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that the conference would be held on the 10th October 2013 and would be opened by Leighton Andrews, Minister for Education and Mark Campion (Estyn) would also be in attendance. Workshop sessions would be run on how RE can contribute to literacy and numeracy and nominations for attendance would be sought from SACREs. Members noted that invitations would also be sent out to separately to schools and would provide an excellent opportunity for professional development.

Members noted the date of the conference and agreed to forward nominations to the Clerk in order to secure their attendance with WASACRE. Members agreed that the outcome of the conference and the review report be included on the agenda for the Autumn Term SACRE meeting.

6. WASACRE MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2013 AT NEWPORT

The report summarised the discussion and deliberations of the WASACRE meeting held on the 22nd of March 2013 at Newport.

Members noted the meeting discussion and particular reference was made to the presentations given by Anne Williams and Helen Evans from Llanelltyd Primary School, Phil Lord, RE Advisor and System Leader working with three local authorities in North Wales and Gill Vaisey. The presentations highlighted the application of RE at Foundation Phase.

SACRE having fully considered the report noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE.

7. WASACRE REPRESENTATION AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 19TH JUNE 2012 AT CAERNARFON.

The report consulted with and sought nominations from Members for attendance at the next WASACRE meeting on the 19th June 2013 in Caernarfon.

Councillor J. Taylor agreed to try and attend the meeting, however this would be dependent on his ability to rearrange his work schedule for that day.

8. WASACRE EXECUTIVE VOTING

The report presented Members with the nominations for the three vacant positions on the WASACRE Executive.

Pen portraits of the nominees were presented to Members for their consideration and the candidates were discussed at length.

SACRE having considered the nominations and unanimously agreed that Cllr D.M. Gray, Mrs J. Harris and Mrs M. Parry and for the position of Vice Chair Mr G. Craigen would carry the Caerphilly SACRE vote.

It was agreed that should Members be unable to attend the WASACRE meeting the Clerk to SACRE would inform the Clerk to WASACRE of the votes of Caerphilly SACRE.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - CYTUN - CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WALES

SACRE noted the correspondence received and the response of the Clerk to SACRE.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were advised of possible changes to the way in which SACRE would be supported going forward and the move toward a regional programme. In this eventuality a single SACRE RE Advisor would be recruited and so this meeting was possibly the last that Mrs Thomas would be in attendance in her present role.

Mrs Thomas confirmed that she would remain as RE Advisor for the remainder of the academic year and would complete this year's annual report in order to put Caerphilly SACRE in the best position.

Councillor Gray on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE thanked Mrs Thomas for all her hard work and commitment over the years. Members joined him in commending Mrs Thomas for all the support and advice provided to both schools and SACRE members and agreed that her expertise, understanding and dedication would be missed.

The meeting closed at 14.47 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th November 2013, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN