

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Minutes of a meeting of the EDUCATION (AWARDS) APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 4.30pm on Wednesday 13 February 2002 at City Hall, Victoria Street, SW1.

Present: Councillors Jenny Bianco (Chairman upon appointment)
Barbara Schmeling
Catherine Longworth
Barbara Grahame

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 It was noted that Councillor Barbara Grahame had replaced Councillor Josephine Ohene-Djan on the Committee.
- 1.2 Councillor Catherine Longworth nominated Councillor Jenny Bianco and there being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jenny Bianco be appointed Chairman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no declarations by Members or officers of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 17 October 2001 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. EXEMPT REPORTS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below:-

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Grounds</u> | <u>Para. Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act</u> |
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| 5 & 6 | Information relating to applicants for financial Assistance | 5 |
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5. APPEAL AGAINST THE REFUSAL TO GRANT FREE HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL – Case A – AM (See report of Director of Education – agenda item 6)

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Director of Education concerning an appeal against the decision to refuse a free travel pass for a child in December 2001.
- 5.2 Members of the Sub-Committee asked the Director of Education to submit reports, which in future gave details of the addresses of the applicants, but not including the house or flat numbers. They felt that this information might prompt them to seek further information from the Director in advance of the Sub-Committee meeting.
- 5.3 With regard to the specific application Members felt that they did not have sufficient information on which to base a decision. However, they were minded to allow the appeal if, on investigation, it was clear that the child's school attendance record was poor because of travel difficulties.
- 5.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Director of Education be requested to investigate this case further with a view to obtaining the applicant's school attendance record and that if this appeared to be poor then he be authorised to allow the appeal but that if it was good then he be instructed to dismiss the appeal.

6. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL TO GRANT FREE HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL: CASE B –DM (See report of Director of Education – agenda item 7)

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Director of Education concerning an appeal against the decision to refuse a free travel pass for a child in January 2002.
- 6.2 Members felt that they did not have enough information on which to base a decision. They wondered how long the family had been at their current address, how they came to be there and what were the options as regards alternative schools. In particular they considered they needed more information on the child's medical condition (G6PD in the blood) and to what extent this made it difficult to walk to school.

- 6.3 **RESOLVED:** That the decision to grant or refuse the appeal be delegated to the Director of Education in consultation with the Chairman, Councillor Jenny Bianco, and that any decision be taken in the light of further information obtained by the Director, in particular with regard to the applicant's medical condition.

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

- 7.1 The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

Chairman

Date