

Language Steering Committee

Minutes of Meeting 1, held on Friday, 17th November 1978, at 20 Gordon Square, London WC1.

1. The Committee

It was reported that the committee had been convened as a result of the Bromsgrove Seminar on Linguistics and Language Teaching in Schools, held at North Worcestershire College, 8 - 10 July 1978, when the two sponsoring organisations, the British Association for Applied Linguistics and the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, had been recommended to establish a steering committee to organize a subsequent seminar or seminars and to pursue the purposes of the original seminar. It had been recommended that the Steering Committee should include representatives of the National Association for the Teaching of English and of the Department of Education and Science, and should have the power to co-opt other members. These recommendations were subsequently accepted by the sponsoring organizations, and as a result of approaches to NATE and DES, their representation was secured.

2. Membership

J D Mountford
Senior Lecturer in Education
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representing BAAL

J C Rudd
Senior Lecturer in English
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representing BAAL

Derrick Sharp
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Chairman NATE

Arthur E Brookes
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representing NATE

M F Riddle
Senior Lecturer in Linguistics
Middlesex Polytechnic
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representing LAGB

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representing LAGB

Staff HMI
with training

R Arnold HMI
 Department of Education and Science 29 Cornsland
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 8 Marshall Street Essex
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 (01) 439 6431 (0277) 227054 representing DES

P Gannon HMI
 Department of Education and Science
 London House
 New London Road
 Chelmsford
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 (0245) 68345/6 Home : (0245) 61335 representing DES

3. Officers

The following were appointed:

Chairman : M F Riddle; Secretary : J C Rudd

4. Administrative details

Where possible members would claim expenses from their nominating organization. Otherwise it was reported that BAAL had agreed that the surplus on the North Worcestershire Seminar should be used to defray any travelling or administrative expenses.

The secretary reported that North Worcestershire College was providing clerical and other resources, and the committee recorded its gratitude for this support.

It was agreed that the secretary should continue to have funds in his name, and that a financial report should be made to each meeting of the committee.

5. It was agreed that the secretary should write to all local authority language advisers asking for details of language courses. The result of this survey would be reported at future meetings of the committee.

6. Report of members' contacts

Ron Arnold said that most language courses for CEE arrived on his desk. He offered to send new syllabuses to the secretary for copying and despatch to members. It was agreed that this would be useful and should be done. He also reported that he was a member of CMAA Language and Literary Panel.

Derrick Sharp reported that as Chairman of the National Congress for Language in Education Working Party B - Language Policies in schools with special reference to links between foreign language and mother tongue teaching, he would be able to report to the committee on interesting developments.

John Mountford reported his membership of the Language in Schools Standing Committee.

7. Co-options

It was agreed after some discussion that no co-options be made at this time, but that the matter should be on the agenda of future meetings.

8. English Advisers' Conference 1979

Ron Arnold said that he would arrange for members of the Steering Committee to be invited to attend this DES Course to be held at Malvern, 10 - 14 September 1979, with a view to influencing the opinions of advisers.

9. The next seminar

There was considerable discussion of the form and subject areas of the next seminar. In the course of this discussion two particular approaches emerged: the specific teaching of linguistics in schools, characterised as "focused" (though it was recognized that this was not an entirely appropriate term); and linguistics-informed teaching of the mother tongue, characterised as "diffuse".

It was agreed that two seminars should be organized to run consecutively, so that members could attend one or both, and that the seminars should be held as follows:

1. Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th April 1980
2. Saturday 26th to Monday 28th April 1980

The Saturday afternoon to be clear.

In each case the seminar would commence in the late afternoon, and conclude with lunch.

The committee agreed that the more important of the two was the "diffuse", but no decision as to the position of each seminar was made.

10. Minutes

It was agreed that minutes would be circulated to committee members only. It would lie in the discretion of members how they should report back to their parent body.

11. Meetings of the committee

It was agreed that the committee should meet on the following dates in 1979:

Monday,	12th March
Friday,	22nd June
Friday,	16th November

It was further agreed that meetings should take place in London, and the offer of venues by DES and University College was noted with gratitude. It was agreed that the meetings would commence at 2 pm, and that the final choice of venue should be left to the secretary.