

Language Steering Committee

Minutes of Meeting 2, held on Monday, 12th March 1979 at 20 Gordon Square, London WC1

2.1 Attendance Mike Riddle (Chairman), Dick Hudson, Derrick Sharp, Arthur Brookes, John Mountford, John Rudd (Secretary) Peter Gannon

Apology Ron Arnold

2.2 Minutes The minutes of Meeting 1 were confirmed subject to the following alterations, amendments and additions

Item 2 John Mountford is a Senior Lecturer in English.

Derrick Sharp's home postcode is SA2 0JB  
Arthur Brookes' " " " DH1 4QG

Item 6 Delete paragraph 3

2.3 Minutes. Matters arising not already included in the agenda.  
Item 2. It was reported that Ron Arnold is now Staff HMI Teacher Training, with responsibility for Curriculum. His address is now

Department of Education and Science  
Elizabeth House  
York Road  
London SE1 7PH (Telephone 01 928 9222 (ext 2775))

Item 4 The secretary reported some problems which had arisen in relation to the clerical support of the Committee. It was agreed that these should be borne in mind and discussed later in the meeting. (see 2.7 below)

2.4 Financial report. The report was taken as read.

	£
Balance brought forward	180 62
Claims for travelling	<u>15 19</u>
Balance in hand	165 43

It was agreed that a claim form should be produced and used for all claims in order to facilitate the keeping and auditing of accounts.

2.5 "Advisory approaches to English". (DES Course N444).

The following members wished to attend:

John Mountford, Mike Riddle, John Rudd, Derrick Sharp.

It was agreed that they should complete application forms and send them to the secretary for onward despatch to Peter Gannon, who would be attending the conference in his official capacity.

Peter Cannon pointed out that there would be a captive audience at Malvern, and that it was important that this should be capitalized upon. It was agreed that this matter should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting and that members be asked to give advance consideration to it.

(Continued)

2.6

Language courses

It was reported that the secretary had written to 70 authorities and that thus far 28 had replied. In general the replies had been helpful and informative, only one being abusive, and one other irrelevant. Two advisers had raised the question of representation on the Committee (see 2.15 below). Peter Gannon said that the DES had a list of Advisers with responsibility for English, and it was agreed that a copy of the list should be passed to the Secretary.

In the general discussion which followed a number of points were made:

1. That an offer to help in the servicing of courses might be made at the Malvern Conference
2. That the process of influence was a lengthy chain involving universities, colleges, advisers and teachers.
3. That it would be useful to find out to what extent teachers' need for linguistics was being met through
  - (a) initial training
  - (b) courses on the teaching of reading
  - (c) other courses of further study for teachers.

It was agreed that the secretary should seek information from CILT, and possibly ETIC, about relevant research, and that he should approach Ron Arnold regarding the linguistics content of initial training courses.

2.7

This led to consideration of the load of work required of the secretary, and in particular of the problem of clerical support. It was agreed that an approach might be made to an educational trust to enable this essential research to be conducted. There would be a report to the June meeting.

2.8

Some consideration was given to the possibility of a questionnaire to be issued to Advisers at Malvern. The form of this would be considered at the June meeting. The view was also expressed that this might not be the most appropriate action.

2.9

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to those advisers who had replied thanking them suitably, and mentioning that members of the committee were hoping to meet them at Malvern. It was considered that a separate reply should be made to Humberside, expressing our regret. The real point here, it was felt, was the divisive effect of such a response, and there was reference to a similar attitude among some drama advisers.

2.10

A detailed report on the response from advisers would be given to the June meeting, possibly in tabular form.

It was pointed out that in 60 of the 104 education authorities there had been some follow-up to Bullock, and the importance of schools establishing language policies was stressed. In particular the work of Meg Walker, a scientist, was referred to, as was that of Mike Torbe.

2.11

Names suggested for the seminars were Trevor Dickinson HMI, Meg Walker, ~~Mike Torbe~~, Sally Twite, Pam Czerniewska, Mike Clark\*, A. Wilkinson\*, W. Mittins, L. Stratta, A. Tinkel, W. Granbery, E. Reid. But it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until June. Members were asked to ensure that a full list could be suggested. \* = NATE

*Granbery?*

2.12.1

It was agreed that the dates and titles of the two seminars should be as follows:

- (a) 'Linguistics as an examinable subject in schools' to be held Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th April 1980.
- (b) 'The contribution of linguistics to the teaching of English as the mother tongue' to be held Saturday 26th to Monday 28th April 1980.

Both of these seminars would be held at North Worcestershire College, Bromsgrove, Worcs. (Continued)

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- 2.12.2 It was suggested that David Crystal and Henry Widdowson might be asked to speak to the 'diffuse' seminar (b), and that among the subjects for discussion might be the contribution of TEFL/TESL to the teaching of the mother tongue, and the question of whether English does exist as an identifiable mother tongue.
- 2.12.3 The secretary was to circulate details of the seminars, together with a general invitation to contribute, to BAAL and LAGB, and was to arrange for the inclusion of the information in the British Linguistics Newsletter.
- 2.12.4 It was agreed that a consideration of the 'backwash' effects of linguistic syllabuses should be incorporated in the 'focused' seminar.
- 2.13 It was suggested by the Chairman and Dick Hudson, and agreed by the Committee, that a draft manifesto should be prepared advancing the claims of linguistics to its place in teacher education and the school curriculum. This draft would be considered at the June meeting of the committee, having been circulated to members beforehand. It was considered that the manifesto would provide support for the position of linguists in relation to the school curriculum.
- 2.14 The secretary reported on correspondence other than that resulting from the circular letter to advisers. Letters requesting details of the Bromsgrove seminar (1978) and expressing interest in future developments had been received from Walter Granbery, Euan Reid and Mr G. James and from Messrs Benn and Cream of York University Toronto.
- Granbery?*
- Arising out of this item members asked that a copy of the secretary's report to BAAL on the Bromsgrove Seminar should be circulated to them. It was agreed that this should be done.
- 2.15 Co-options.  
The possibility of co-opting from the Advisers was considered. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate if this were done at or after Malvern. It was agreed that the Secretary should write in these terms to those advisers who had suggested this, and to Anne Thomas, Secretary of the NAAE.
- 2.16 It was agreed that the syllabuses circulated to members should be the subject of consideration at the June meeting. The secretary was asked to find out whether the East Anglia syllabus page 2 had been omitted by design or accident.
- 2.17 The date and venue of the June meeting were confirmed as 2.00 pm on Friday, 22nd June 1979.