

LANGUAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting 4, held on Friday, 16th November 1979 at 20 Gordon Square, London, WCl, commencing at 2.00 pm.

4.1.1. Attendance: Mike Riddle (Chairman), Dick Hudson, John Mountford, Arthur Brookes, Dennis Brook, Geoffrey Thornton, Peter Gannon, John Rudd (Secretary)

4.1.2 Apologies: Ron Arnold, Derrick Sharp

4.1.3 The Chairman welcomed Dennis Brook, on his co-option, and Geoffrey Thornton, one of the speakers at the forthcoming seminar.

4.2 Minutes: The minutes of Meeting 3 were confirmed.

4.3 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising other than those already included on the agenda.

4.4 Administrative matters

4.4.1 The secretary reported that disbursements since Meeting 3 amounted to £30.30, and that the balance in hand was £117.71.

4.4.2 The printing of a Language Steering Committee letterhead was reported. It was agreed that it should be available to any member conducting correspondence on behalf of the Committee, although it was recognized that such correspondence would normally be conducted by the Secretary or Chairman.

4.5. Advisory approaches to English

Appreciation of the reception of members of the Language Steering Committee at the Advisers' Conference was expressed. It was noted that the fact that the notional DES Course has now been taken over by the NAAIE had made it impossible to circulate papers in advance, but that Mike Riddle's paper on the 1978 Seminar and the product of the Working Groups' deliberations at Bromsgrove had been xeroxed and circulated to all in attendance at Malvern.

Dennis Brook stated that the subject of the 1980 conference, to be held at York, would be the maintenance and development of the curriculum in English. He offered to circulate papers to members of the ISC. While no decision was made as to whether the ISC should seek to be represented at next year's conference, there was general agreement that the option should be left open. Mike Riddle stated that his written report on the conference would be prepared and circulated to members with the papers for the February 1980 meeting.

4.6 The statement

(It was agreed that 'statement' was a more appropriate description than the former 'manifesto'). Dick Hudson spoke to the latest version of the statement, produced after discussion with Mike Riddle. Entitled 'What linguists have to say about language', it was agreed that it was basically satisfactory, and that it should be circulated to all seminar participants. It was agreed that there would be opportunity to discuss the statement at the seminars, and there might possibly be augmentations, for example, on instruction. Dennis Brook believed that in a developed form it would be useful to circulate it to Advisers.

Finally it was agreed that comments should be submitted to Dick Hudson, possibly in the form of annotated copies, and that a final draft would be submitted for approval at the February meeting.

(Continued)

It was suggested that two further papers might be commissioned:

- (a) A list of popular misconceptions of teachers
- (b) Questions asked by teachers

Peter Gannon offered to circulate copies of a paper by himself and Pam Czerniewska to members of LSC. It was agreed that a paper by Arthur Brookes "What do teachers feel that linguists can offer them?" should be included for discussion in Seminar 2.

4.7 The seminars

After some discussion of the timetable of the two seminars it was agreed that the detailed programme should be left to the Chairman and Secretary, who would submit it for approval to the February meeting.

4.8 Correspondence

Correspondence in relation to the Malvern Conference, to the seminars, and to the co-option of a member of NAAIE was reported, as was the Chairman's correspondence with the Association of Teachers of Social Science.

4.9 Language courses (arising from Minute 3.6)

Geoffrey Thornton offered to provide information regarding the Brighton Polytechnic initiative.

4.10 Co-options

Following discussion of the Chairman's correspondence with representatives of the ATSS (see 4.8 above), the possibility of a co-option was discussed. It was agreed that in the event of it being thought appropriate a co-option would be welcomed.

4.11 Date of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee should be on Friday, 15th February 1980, and that the summer meeting should be on Friday, 20th June.

4.12 There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Language Steering Committee

Chairman: Mike Riddle

Secretary: John Rudd

D.E.S. Short Course N444: Advisory Approaches to English
Abbey Hotel, Malvern: Tuesday 11 Sept - Friday 14 Sept. 1979

Four members of the Language Steering Committee attended this conference by invitation: John Mountford, Mike Riddle, John Rudd and Derrick Sharp. The conference was organised by the Association of Advisers and Inspectors of English and had as its main theme the development of the English teacher.

The programme of the conference was patterned as follows:

A. Invited speaker(s) addressing plenary sessions, followed by two or three meetings of sub-groups (members were allocated to working groups on the first day). In this way, two main topics were covered:

1. Initial Training and Induction: Language and the Professional Training of Teachers.

2. School-based In-Service Education and Training

B. A group of Options in which the contributions of some outside agencies were discussed. LSC members chose their Options as follows:

JM: The one-year fulltime advanced course 'The Role of Language in Education'.

MR: Examination developments and curriculum change: 16+ English and an Alternative 'A' Level.

JR: Part-time study in Higher Education: The Manchester Polytechnic Certificate for Serving Teachers in Language and Reading Development.

DS: The Schools Council Project: 'Education for a Multi-Racial Society'.

Other Options were: 1. The Open University Course: 'Language and Learning'.
2. Curriculum development in the L.E.A.: Work in Coventry - 'Towards a Language Policy'.

The membership (85-90) of the conference was drawn almost entirely from the ranks of the Advisers and Inspectors of English; there was, however, a small number of HMIs, FE/HE lecturers and school teachers. LSC members were, therefore, able to get different perspectives on the topics discussed in the working-groups, and informally, in the intervals between sessions.

There was some variation in the positions adopted by individual members on the question of linguistics and language policy, though it was not as wide as LSC members had anticipated. There was generally discernible an openness to debate and a willingness to hear the case for the relevance of linguistics. In fact, several of the working-groups invited LSC members to speak at some length on their views of the place of linguistics in the development of the English teacher. LSC members felt that the climate of cautious approval was encouraging.

Because of the change of responsibility for the day-to-day organisation of the conference (from the DES to the AAIE) MR was not given a session in which to address members on the Bromsgrove 1978 Conference and the aims of the LSC. However, both he and JR made short statements on these matters at the end of one of the plenary sessions, and MR's report on Bromsgrove 1978 was distributed.

At the end of the conference LSC members were able to agree that their attendance had been worthwhile:

-personal contacts had been made with colleagues, which would ease future contact by correspondence from LSC or from individual members

-the AAIE had agreed to nominate one of their members for co-option to LSC

-several conference members had expressed interest in Bromsgrove 1980

Jane Roberts in Postion

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