

Report of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Managers held at

THREAPWOOD C.E. CONTROLLED SCHOOL

on Tuesday, 6th January, 1959

PRESENT:

School Managers

E. M. Broad  
G. C. Davies  
Rev. H. M. Minchin  
C. Moss  
Dr. M. Willis  
F. T. Young

Representing the County Education Committee

H. J. S. Dewes  
Mrs. H. Harley  
A. E. Moors  
J. H. I. Radcliffe

Also present:

E. A. Armitage, Deputy Director of Education  
W. J. C. Todd, Assistant Solicitor  
Clerk of the Council's Department

1. CHAIRMAN: At the invitation of the Chairman of the Managers, Councillor J. H. I. Radcliffe, Chairman of the County Education Committee, took the Chair for this Extraordinary Meeting.
2. COMPLAINTS OF PARENTS: The Chairman of the County Education Committee explained that certain complaints had been received from eleven parents who had, as from 5th January, 1959, withdrawn their children from attendance at the school. He added that the purpose of the meeting was to give these parents a full opportunity of stating their complaints and of substantiating these complaints in the presence of the Head Mistress; of discussing these matters with the Head Mistress, and if possible, of arriving at a solution of the present difficulty. He explained that this was a matter primarily for the Managers but that the Authority's representatives were in attendance in case they could give any assistance to the Managers and in case it was necessary for them to agree to any proposals of the Managers, so that there may be no delay in the execution of those proposals.

Fifteen parents were admitted to the meeting and were given a full opportunity of stating their complaints and of substantiating those complaints. The Chairman of the County Education Committee and the Deputy Director of Education suggested to the parents that their children should now return to school immediately, especially having regard to (a) the fact that it was contrary to the interests of the children to be out of school, (b) the fact that the parents had had an opportunity of stating their complaints, (c) the legal responsibility of the parents in the matter of school attendance.

The parents then withdrew and the meeting heard statements from Mr. Railton and Miss Sellars in reply to the ~~complaints~~ complaints. In brief these statements were to the effect (a) that evidence in support of the complaints had not been submitted by the parents, (b) that there was in any case no foundation for the complaints.

Miss Sellars and Mr. Railton then withdrew and the meeting considered the complaints of the parents and the observations of Miss Sellars and Mr. Railton.

The meeting was satisfied that there was no foundation for the complaints concerning (a) the standard of education in the school, (b) the reason for the resignation of Mrs. Davies, Assistant Teacher.

The Managers were agreed, however, that it was necessary for the Headmistress to improve her relationships with parents and with the village generally, and the Managers decided on the following course of action:

(i) That the views of the Managers be communicated to the Head Mistress at a meeting of the Managers to be held at 6.30 p.m. at Shocklach C.E. Controlled School on 8th January, 1959. The Managers expressed the hope that the Deputy Director of Education and Mr. Railton would be present at this meeting.

(ii) If the Headmistress is prepared to co-operate to the full in the matter of the restoration of good relationships with parents and others, the Managers will, for their part, inform the Headmistress of their support and they will subsequently meet Mrs. Green and Mrs. Bebbington as representing the complaining parents. At this meeting the Managers will state their conviction that there is no truth in the allegation concerning the standard of education in the school and the reason for the resignation of Mrs. Davies; they will inform the parents of the desire both of the Headmistress and the Managers for better relationships and of the support the Managers intend to give the Headmistress in this matter, and they will seek the co-operation of the parents.

(iii) If the Headmistress does not find herself able to give co-operation when invited by the Managers, or if there is further difficulty of the kind recently experienced, the Managers will meet again to consider what further action can be taken in this matter.

8<sup>TH</sup> January, 1959

John Bebbington,  
Chairman

Report of a Special Meeting of the Managers of  
THREAPWOOD C.E. CONTROLLED SCHOOL

held at Shocklach School on Thursday, 8th January, 1959

PRESENT: Rev. H. M. Minchin  
E. M. Broad  
G. C. Davies  
C. Moss  
Dr. M. Willis  
F. T. Young  
E. A. Armitage, Deputy Director of Education  
Miss E. Sellars, Head Teacher  
R. Railton, National Union of Teachers

1. RESOLVED: That the Rev. H. M. Minchin be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Rev. Minchin in the Chair.

2. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th January, 1959 be confirmed.

Mr. Armitage, at the request of the Chairman, informed Miss Sellars of the decisions reached at the meeting held on 6th January, 1959 and informed her that if she was prepared to co-operate to the full in the matter of the restoration of good relationships with parents and others, the Managers would, for their part, give her all the support possible.

Miss Sellars gave an undertaking that she would co-operate to the full.

3. RESOLVED: That a further meeting of the Managers be held at Threapwood C.E. Controlled School on 12th January, 1959 at 6.30 p.m. and that Mrs. Green and Mrs. Bebbington be invited to this meeting, at which (a) the Deputy Director of Education will on behalf of the Managers inform these parents of the decisions reached at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th January, 1959, (b) the Managers will affirm their intention to support the Headmistress and will appeal to the parents to do the same in the interests of the children, the school and the village.

12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 1959

*H. M. Minchin*  
Chairman

Report of a Special Meeting of the Managers of

THREAPWOOD C.E. CONTROLLED SCHOOL

held at the School on 12th January, 1959

PRESENT: Rev. H. M. Winchin (Chairman)  
E. M. Broad  
G. C. Davies  
C. Moss  
Dr. M. Willis  
F. T. Young  
E. A. Armitage,  
Deputy Director of Education  
Mrs. Green and Mrs. Bebbington  
together with Mr. Lee,  
their Legal representative

1. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 8th January, 1959 be confirmed.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Armitage, Deputy Director of Education, informed the parents that at the meetings held on 6th and 8th January, 1959 the Managers and the Members of the County Education Committee who were present at the first meeting had thoroughly investigated the complaints made by the parents. The Managers were of the opinion that there was no foundation for the complaints concerning

- (a) the standard of education in the school;
- (b) the reason for the resignation of Mrs. Davies, Assistant Teacher.

They were, however, in full agreement that it was essential that there should be an improvement in the relationships of the Headmistress with the parents and with the village generally.

28<sup>th</sup> May 1959

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Chairman

Miss Sellars had given an undertaking to co-operate to the full in the matter of the restoration of good relationships and the Managers had informed her that they, for their part, would give her all the support possible.

Mr. Armitage then asked Mr. Lee on behalf of Mrs. Green and Mrs. Bebbington, who were representing the parents of children attending the school, if they would be prepared to co-operate with the Headmistress in the interests of the children, the school and the village.

After considerable discussion it was agreed by Mrs. Green and Mrs. Bebbington that they would co-operate with Miss Sellars. On behalf of the parents Mrs. Green expressed her thanks for the helpful and co-operative manner in which their complaints had been dealt with. Mr. Lee undertook to see the other signatories to the recent petition and to secure their co-operation.

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F. H. Hutchins  
Chairman.