

MCR/216/2003/3

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (S.A.)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd February, 1979 at the Office at 2p.m.

1. MINUTES of meeting held on January 6th accepted as correct.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Representation on Branch Committee: Chairperson has sent a memo to the Chief Rep. making formal application for our representation on the Branch Committee. Awaiting reply.

Other matters arising to be dealt with in agenda.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

a. Correspondence:

From Umrde Sindiso

(i) School is not to be named Albert Luthuli Inst. We're asked to make suggestions, using College rather than Inst. For next Agenda.

(ii) Meeting of Council for Education Dept. postponed till March.

The building programme is behind schedule. School to open in April with the official opening much later.

(iii) Proposal to link with the Tanzanian examination system. We will discuss at our next meeting.

Minutes of October meeting at Mazimbu received and tabled.

From Dar Committee: It is hoped to work on the site and draw up a priority list of the needs of the School.

b. Books:

Penquin will consider publishing books suggested by us.

Longman's representative will see our chairperson. Noted that they will still send us books from the original list.

Storage- The Office has been written to re the urgency of finding storage. An appeal will be made in A.A.News.

Leaflet- Leaflet and poster for the appeal still not ready for production. We AGREED to protest against the delay, pointing out that they have been officially vetted.

c. Scholarships:

Durham University is offering scholarships. A.A.M. is worried about some of the recipients. Apparently some go to applicants who aren't really needy. We AGREED to keep in touch with A.A.M. and watch the position closely so as to try and influence Universities to help our supporters.

Two applications have been sent to Sussex University which appeared to be sympathetic. ~~NAMES to be~~ sent to UCCA. We AGREED to proceed but also to write and ask what branch of psychology the students wish to study and for what purpose. Some members offered to make enquiries at other Universities when we have more information about the students, and to make direct contact with Sussex.

International Extension College:

Chairperson has started correspondence with them in the hope of receiving help with scholarships in the future.

d. International Year of the Child:

We received a report on the decisions of the last meeting of the group dealing with I.Y.C. Hilary to write an article on the set-up of Education in S.A.

e. Solidarity work:

A.A.M. would like our help with the Soweto walk and other work.

Request from I.D.A.F. for help in producing their kit on S.A.

f. Curricula:

Help from members is welcome on all subjects, not only those assigned to us (eg bibliographies, comments, materials)

g. Teachers for the School - two formal applications have been sent.

No information re recruitment yet received.



4. CURRICULAEnglish

We accepted the outline of the proposed syllabus with the following comments which are to be incorporated:-

- (i) In studying English there must be provision for non-textual situations. Creative writing must be a medium for the students to examine their own experience and aspirations. This must be clearly stated, not only implied.
- (ii) Amend 'African School for Africans' to 'liberation school for the liberation movement with an African orientation.'
- (iii) Omit reference to students' ages

We AGREED that at our next meeting we should look at a lesson content with copies of the relevant book available.

Reminder that we should trace and look at the Mayibuye readers.

Maths.

Aims and Objectives accepted with minor alterations and section two (Mathematical skills) to be simplified and set out as a number of points. We AGREED to give the Education Council the option of three sources of materials and methods as set out in the Maths Panel paper. (Appendix 1)

History.

Chairperson has received a letter from Comrade Sindiso stating that the work as set out in the History outline was not appropriate for a secondary school. The chairperson has written to object to the method of rejecting this previously accepted work i.e. without reasons given, supplying what appears to be an alternate outline again without any comment or explanation. We AGREED to ask for clarification on the whole method of working: our remit, the procedure with other committees. We should point out how we have worked; that the history outline was discussed by a seminar and all comments from other committees and individuals were taken into consideration; also that we do expect criticism and comment, but not an unexplained rejection of work.

The History panel will continue to work as planned. Another seminar will be held as soon as possible.

Journalism

Draft paper read to the meeting. We AGREED to propose that the Panel should proceed with (c) Journalism and propaganda to be a separate subject. Laura to join the Panel and Tony Hall to be invited to do so.

5. LITERATURE

Outline syllabus received from Dar. We discussed it and commented as follows: (i) We strongly support the use of oral tradition. Point out the work of P. Jordan.

(ii) Literature and socialism - should be part of the syllabus itself, not just a guidance to teachers.

(iii) Note French realists eg Zola, Balzac. Russian eg Turgenev.

(14) Suggest that instead of dividing topics into 5 years of study, a topic per year, they be spread across the 5 years so that each year covers all aspects at varying levels. This would mean for instance that students in the first year would be made aware of people's struggle in other parts of the world.

Our members were asked to submit any other suggestions for books to the Chairperson within a few days. Also proposed that we ask the Research Committee whether they have suggestions.



6. NATIONAL LANGUAGE QUESTION.

Draft paper on alternate ways of working read to the meeting.

We discussed whether this really was our brief, whether we should before/first have political discussions be/research is done or vice versa. Some members felt that ~~it~~ does concern us directly with regard to the medium of instruction at the school. We AGREED to discuss the Language question as the first item on our next agenda. Noted that Cmrde Yengwa has agreed to work on the Panel. Agreed to invite him to the next meeting.

7. A.O.B.

Noted that Basil Davidson would be talking on the teaching of African History at the Camden Teachers' Centre. Date 2nd March to be confirmed.

Our next meeting - March 3rd.

Articles on the school required by A.A. News and Sechaba. Mohammed to write them with help from Haorld and Vic.

Division of work. To be discussed at next meeting - .0verburdening our chairperson.

AGREED that whenever possible documents should be circulated to members of the Committee before meetings so that these could be studied and discussion at meeting could be briefer.

Agenda for next meeting:

Minutes and matters arising.

Chairperson's report.

National Language Question.

Name for the school.

Link with Tanzanian exam. system.

The school in relationship to other sections of the movement.

Plans for the Laboratory.

.Division of work.