

Annual Conference Resolutions 2012

Resolutions carried at SEA Conference 2012

Motion 1

Ofsted Inspection Scheme

This conference is very concerned by the claims that the Ofsted inspection system is being used as a political tool by which to privatise, through forced academisation any school including PRUs.

Therefore conference call on the SEA executive to enter talks with the Parliamentary Labour Party's shadow education team to:

1. Draw their attention to the on going criticism of Ofsted
2. Insist they call for an independent evaluation of the work of Ofsted and
3. Discuss the replacement of Ofsted with an inspection system which is equitable, supportive, rigorous and independent.

Motion 2

The restoration of local democratic control

Conference calls upon the Shadow Education Team to prepare for the further development of local democratic control over the planning and accountability of the education system in their area. This must be based upon a body composed of elected representatives, not individually appointed commissioners.

Motion 3

Privatisation

1. SEA notes with concern the common privatisation agenda of the Coalition in both health and education, but that the level of public opposition to health marketisation is greater than opposition to education reform. SEA therefore resolves to develop links with organisations campaigning against NHS and education privatisation across the political divide to raise awareness of the common agenda and oppose it.
2. SEA states its total opposition to 'for profit' and private provision in mainstream educational services, and schemes such as Performance Related Pay/Payment by Results which are designed to cut costs and institute a divide and rule regime in educational institutions. This will exacerbate existing problems with teacher recruitment and retention and must be prevented.

Motion 4

Testing at 6

This conference is opposed to the introduction of testing 5 and 6 year olds for competence in phonics.

Children need a variety of approaches to help them begin to read, phonics being only one of them.

To enable children to pass the test at this early age teachers need to concentrate on this one approach and if children have not reached the required standard they are tested again and set up for failure. This approach does not take into consideration the readiness of children to begin to read and is counter productive to the intended aim of raising standards in reading.

Motion 5

National Campaign for Education

The SEA agrees to welcome and support the proposed National Campaign for Education and will work with all like-minded organisations to preserve and to advance comprehensive, accountable state education.

Motion 6

Working with other organisations

This AGM welcomes the SEA's involvement in the "Caught in the Act" (CitA) conference on 19th November 2011 and the developing relationship with other like-minded organisations. We recognise that continuing this work may incur running expenses and the SEA may need to contribute to future joint campaigns.

We therefore authorise the NEC to budget for reasonable costs in 2012-13.

Motion 7

Following up the 2011 'Caught in the Act' conference

This AGM recognises that we need to support the building of a detailed, realistic programme for an incoming Labour Government to tackle the gross inequalities in education as we find them from 2015 onwards. We welcome the idea of a follow-up to the CitA conference in November 2012 that will begin this work.

Motion 8

Welsh education system

The Welsh branch of the SEA affirms that the education system in England continues to diverge from that in Wales and the other devolved parliaments. We ask that this be taken into account when planning national SEA speakers, meetings and publications. We shall continue to seek dialogue with Labour ministers in the Welsh Government.

The education system in Wales continues to be based on Local Education Authorities and on Comprehensive schools. This should be seen as a strength and should feed into discussions of the Labour Party in England.

Emergency motion

This conference rejects any proposal to return to a two tier exam system at 16+ and instead reiterates our support for further development of an examination system that promotes the principles of equity, diversity and the high standards as envisaged in and which underpinned the original GCSE concept.