

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 25 May 2016 at 4.30pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

David Jeapes, Head Teacher	Secondary (in the Chair)
Gareth Hughes, Head Teacher	Secondary
Krishna Purbhoo, Head Teacher	Special
Sarah Sadler, Head Teacher	Primary
Karen Stocks, Head Teacher	Nursery
Jackie Collins, Head Teacher	Primary
Sue Wilson, Head Teacher	Primary

Alison Beane	Academies, Special
Fiona Calderbank	Academies, Secondary
Steven Labeledz	Academies, Secondary
Claire Stevens (<i>on behalf of Lee Miller</i>)	Academies, Secondary

Clive Good, Governor	Primary
Bruce Marr, Governor	Secondary
Ruth Nabholz-Duncan, Governor	Nursery
Steve Sheehan, Governor	Primary

Councillor John Ferrett	Labour Party
Councillor Hannah Hockaday	Conservative Party
Stella Mbubaegbu	16-19 Representative

15. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Abigail Eales, Councillor Galloway and Lee Miller; Claire Stevens deputised for the latter.

16. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Richard Webb, Finance Manager requested that members complete the declarations of interest forms that had been circulated.

17. Membership Changes.

Richard Webb informed members of the following membership changes:

Members whose tenures have ended

- Bruce Marr, Secondary Governor.
- Margaret Beel, Academy Primary.
- Steve Frampton, 16-19 Representative.
- Alison Beane, Academy Special.

New Members

- Bruce Marr was reappointed as Secondary Governor.
- Alison Beane was reappointed as Academy Special Representative.
- Joy Waelend, Ark Academy Trust was appointed as Academy Primary Representative.

- Stella Mbubaegbu, was appointed as 16-19 representative.

There is a vacancy for a special governor.

Members approaching the end of their tenure:

David Jeapes on 11 September 2016

Gareth Hughes on 11 September 2016

Steve Sheehan on 8 September 2016.

18. Minutes and Matters Arising From the Previous Meeting Held on 24 February.

DECISION

The Schools Forum agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2016.

Matters Arising.

Page 4 - Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services confirmed that the report on the fair distribution of pupils and future-proofing will be brought to a future meeting.

19. Future School Funding Formula Change.

Richard Webb introduced the report and in response to questions clarified the following points:

- There are no current plans to renegotiate the PFI contract. The PFI factor will continue to fund Miltoncross Academy and be indexed annually in line with contract, whilst it is possible to do so.
- Portsmouth allocates one of the highest levels of funding per pupil through the Looked After Children (LAC) factor. As a result of the proposals the funding will be transferred and reallocated by central government through the Pupil Premium Grant. The future funding rates for the Pupil Premium - LAC are currently unknown.
- It is assumed from the consultation document that the local arrangements for de-delegation will cease in 2019/20. If it happens before then, all members would be informed.
- There are current mechanisms in place for all the budgets listed in paragraph 6.9 that are currently de-delegated, to become traded services except for CLEAPS
- Volunteers were sought for the funding reform working group which would probably meet twice in July and once in September.

A general discussion took place with regard to the potential financial implications of the funding formula changes, as shown by the financial modelling using the Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs). Richard explained that this had been the first time that the MFLs had been applied at an individual school level, as originally they were used to determine the level of funding for local authority areas. He also explained that the actual financial impact of the consultation proposals will not be known until the second stage of the consultation is released; when it is expected that the DfE will release area and school level financial information.

The Chair noted that the transfer of funding from primary to secondary schools would not be a popular move and could potentially have significant ramifications.

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services asked the Schools Forum whether it wished to make a representation to the Department for Education (DfE) expressing its concerns about the potential impact of the proposals based on the modelling carried out. The Forum agreed this would be a sensible proposal.

Actions

1. Phase representatives were asked to keep their phases up to date with the proposals, particularly the need to make individual arrangements should the schools wish to purchase services.
2. The Chair will draft a letter to the DfE in conjunction with Allison Jeffery setting out the Schools Forum's concerns about the potential impact of the proposals.
3. More volunteers will be sought for the funding reform working group.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum:

- a. **Noted the Department for Education's proposed changes to the school funding arrangements and the potential impact of these changes, as set out within this report; and in particular:**

2017-18

- i. **The transitional period for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Funding to Local Authorities would be allocated on a national formula basis, but Local Authorities would continue to distribute this to schools based on a local formula.**
- ii. **Additional ring-fencing. The 'Schools Block' funding will be ring-fenced within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).**
- iii. **Creation of a new 'Central Schools Block' which will include the 'retained duties' element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).**
- iv. **The Introduction of a formulaic method for distributing High Needs funding from central to local government from 2017-18 (including Special Education Needs (SEN) and Alternative Provision (AP)).**
- v. **The proposed fundamental review of Schools Forum.**

2019-20

- vi. **The implementation of a single National Funding Formula from 2019-20 (at a school level), with funding being passed directly by the Education Funding Agency.**
- vii. **Withdrawal of current de-delegation arrangements.**

- b. **Noted the submission of the response to stage 1, of the Department for Education's consultation, as shown at Appendix 1.**

- c. **Endorsed the creation of a working group to guide and inform the development of the local funding arrangements for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 as set out in section 10.**

The meeting concluded at 5.40pm.

David Jeapes
Chair