

## SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 4:30pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary
Karen Stocks	Head Teacher	Primary
David Jeapes, Chair	Head Teacher	Secondary
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special
Steve Sheehan	Governor	Primary
Jason Crouch	Governor	Secondary
Clive Good	Governor	Primary
Steve Labeledz	Academy	Secondary
Alison Beane	Academy	Special
Suzy Horton	Councillor	Liberal Democrats
Colin Galloway	Councillor	UKIP
Kara Jewell	Early Years	

#### 1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Joy Waeland. Dave Jones, Nys Hardingham, Steven Vaughan, Sue Wilson and Councillor Neill Young.

#### 2. **Declarations of Interests.**

Beverley Pennekett is a governor at Mayfield School and a trustee at the University Technical College.

Councillor Suzy Horton is a governor at Craneswater School.

#### 3. **Membership changes.**

Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager informed the forum of the following appointments:

Nys Hardingham - a secondary academy representative

Jason Crouch - a secondary governor representative

The following reappointments were also made:

Jackie Collins - primary Head Teacher representative

Clive Good - primary governor representative.

Alison Beane's tenure expires shortly.

#### 4. **Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting held on 13 December 2017.**

DECISION

The Schools Forum agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017 subject to the following amendment:

Steve Sheehan is a primary representative not secondary.

Matters Arising.

- Letters had been sent to all primary schools advising them that the reception uplift factor currently in the Portsmouth formula may not be included next year since it is not in the National Funding Formula.
- Clarity regarding costs and benefits will be required in any future requests for funding by the local authority.

**5. 2018- 19 School Revenue Funding Arrangements and Dedicated Schools Grant Budget.**

Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager explained that the Department for Education had sent a revised pupil data set late on 12 January which had impacted on the original recommendations. A revised set of recommendations and supporting evidence pack was tabled.

The Chair thanked the finance team for their hard work.

Ms Pennekett introduced the report and in response to questions, she and Alison Egerton, Group Accountant clarified the following points:

- The request for disapplication for Mayfield School had been approved. A response to the request for Charter Academy had not yet been received.
- The term 'band creep' would cease to be used as it could be considered prejudicial. It will be replaced by the term band adjustment due to the increased complexity of children's needs.
- A range of pressures has contributed to the problems mentioned in section 9.2 of the report.
- A review on Early Years funding would be carried out in the summer term. There had been insufficient pupil data to conduct one before then.
- The protection given to some schools could be long-term. MFG protection is intended to ensure that schools do not receive a decrease in funding of more than 1.5% per pupil, per year. However, when a school's pupil numbers increase, the protection can also increase and stay in place for a number of years.
- If option 2 were to be agreed, there would be no increase in the number of schools requiring this protection.

Ms Pennekett added that the DfE had overestimated the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals in the initial dataset. The corrected figures and subsequent calculation using the originally proposed formula released £59,400. The Cabinet Member for Education decided on 15 January to delay making a decision on how this money would be used until the Schools Forum had the opportunity to state their preferred option.

## Actions

1. Reports on the following issues be brought to the next Schools Forum meeting:
  - Harbour School deficit position
  - Update on SEND strategic review
2. The team will ensure that communication with early year providers is clearer.

Ian Hunkin explained that the exact Harbour Schools deficit balance was not yet known but it will be below £1m. The staff restructuring had been completed and from the next financial year, the in-year budget will remain in balance.

In response to a question, Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion explained the increase in top up costs has been caused both by more pupils with statements and an increase in the average value of top up funding.

## **DECISIONS**

### **The Schools Forum**

- a. **Endorsed option 2 to increase the primary IDACI bands E and F factors by £12 and £20 respectively, thus moving the Portsmouth funding formula towards the National Funding Formula. This would allow for a growth fund of £342,600.**
- b. **Approved the amount of the growth fund for 2018-19 as set out in the preferred option.**
- c. **Subject to the option agreed, endorsed the appropriate determination of the 2018-19 schools budget (including the individual schools budgets) shown at appendix 1.2 together with the supporting explanation contained within the report and specifically approved the following budget lines:**
  - **Admissions**
  - **Schools Forum**
- d. **Endorsed the proposed changes to the mainstream schools revenue funding formula as set out in section 6 and recommendation 2a.**
- e. **Endorsed the appropriate school revenue funding pro-forma at appendix 7.2 for submission to the EFA on 19 January 2018.**
- f. **Endorsed the 2018-19 Element 3 top-up rates for the resourced units and alternative provision settings as set out in appendix 5.**
- g. **Endorsed the decision that any carry-forward balances from 2017-18 be used to assist with the continued introduction of the funding reform changes and fund any potential financial pressures arising during 2018-19.**
- h. **Endorsed the local funding arrangements in respect of the 2, 3 and 4 year old early years provision for 2018-19; which will comply with the requirements of both regulations and the operational guide.**
- i. **Endorsed the submission of the disapplication request to the DfE with regards to the University Technical College, as set out in paragraph 6.13.**

- j. **Noted the de-delegated unit values for 2018-19 as shown at appendix 3.**

**6. Dates of Future Meetings.**

**DECISION**

**The Schools Forum agreed the following meeting dates:**

**10 October 2018  
5 December 2018  
16 January 2019**

The meeting concluded at 17:40.

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David Jeapes  
Chair