

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 10 October 2018 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall.

Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Dave Jones	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
David Jeapes	Head Teacher	Secondary Phase
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special Phase
Alison Beane	Academy	Primary
Karen Stocks	Academy	Primary
Sonia Nickerson	Academy	Primary
Sue Wilson	Academy	Primary
Fiona Calderbank	Academy	Secondary
Stewart Vaughan	Academy	Secondary
Lynne Stagg	Councillor	Liberal Democrats
Judith Smyth	Councillor	Labour
Jason Crouch	Governor	Secondary
Simon Barrable	16-19 Representative	

32. Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Labeledz, Kara Jewell and Kate Keller.

33. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

34. Membership Changes.

Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager gave the following update on membership:

- The three primary academy vacancies have been filled by Sonia Nickerson, Kate Keller and Sue Wilson.
- There were two secondary academy vacancies. One of these has been filled by Fiona Calderbank but the other is still vacant.
- Ian Hunkin's tenure as a special school representative expired in October but he has agreed to stand again, so will continue in the role.
- Councillor Hannah Hockaday is now the Conservative Group representative.

35. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting held on 11 July 2018.

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising or actions.

36. School Funding Arrangements 2019-20

Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager introduced the report and drew attention to an error in Appendix 1 as the middle column figure primary prior attainment factor £1,050 should read 1,022.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- With regard to free school meals and whether the expected school meal price increase has been taken into account, Ms Pennekett confirmed that the unit values reflect the transitional approach towards the national Funding Formula (NFF). The formula allocates funding to schools, but there is no expectation on schools as to how they spend their funding.
- Two disapplication requests had been submitted at the time the report was written and these are set out in paragraph 6 of the report. A third disapplication request has been submitted and formal request for endorsement would be brought to the next meeting.
- Section 7 of the report sets out the situation regarding Early Years and an update on progress together with any recommendations will be brought to a future meeting.
- Ms Pennekett provided some background regarding the funding arrangement for Charter School, which has arisen as a result of historical fluctuations in pupil numbers and changes in the rules governing funding formulae.
- It was confirmed that if the forum wished to do so, it could take a decision to transfer 0.5% of the schools block funding into the special schools, but that was not the recommendation.

DECISION

The Schools Forum

(1) Noted the Department for Education's proposed changes to school revenue funding arrangements for 2019-20 as set out in the report.

(2) Endorsed the proposals for implementing the funding formula arrangements locally as set out in this report; in particular:

- **Schools block will remain intact as set out in paragraph 4.3;**
- **Minimum per pupil funding levels will be implemented at the recommended rates as set out in paragraph 4.6;**
- **To keep those unit values which do not already match the NFF rates under review and amend if necessary, following confirmation of the overall funding allocation as set out in paragraph 4.9;**
- **The criteria for allocating growth funding will reviewed in the spring term as set out in paragraph 5.3;**
- **The disapplication requests as set out in section 6.**

33. Recommendations from the SEND Strategic Review relating to managing the spend within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Dr Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion introduced the report and asked the Forum to note that following feedback received on the recommendation set out in 5.4.4, it has been decided to withdraw this proposal and bring back a revised proposal to the next Schools Forum meeting, although it was noted that this will have an impact on the affordability of the other proposals. A

revision to the original recommendations in the report was circulated to Forum members to reflect this change.

The Chair thanked Dr Katherine for her report and said that it was never good to have to manage funding pressures but sometimes difficult decisions had to be taken.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- Needs are increasing and government funding allocations are not increasing to the level that is needed to keep pace with this demand. . It was confirmed that this was a matter of national concern and that the government is being lobbied hard on this.
- The cost to schools in terms of redundancies was beyond the remit of the Schools Forum to provide funding.
- The council provides HR support to maintained schools.
- If the Forum were to decide not to endorse the recommendations, its view would be placed on record and the Cabinet Member for Education would be aware.

The Chair explained that the forum needed to take a balanced view on funding. The decision taken on the last agenda item was to endorse the existing position and not transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block.

DECISION

The Schools Forum

- 1. Noted the recommendations that have been made as a result of the SEND Strategic Review (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report)**
- 2. Endorsed the actions that are being implemented in response to the recommendations (as set out in Section 4 of the report)**
- 3. Approved the proposals to manage the spend within the High Needs Block for 2019-20 as set out section 5 namely:**
 - **A 1% reduction in special school banded funding rates**
 - **Introduce transition plans**
 - **Reduce the spending on Outreach**
 - **Reduce recharges to the Education cash limits.**
- 4. Endorsed the proposal that the reduction of Inclusion Centre places is reconsidered following feedback from head teachers and brought back to a future meeting.**
- 5. Endorsed the principle of introducing banded funding rates for EHCPs in mainstream schools and Inclusions centres, with the final funding rates to be confirmed (following the outcome of recommendation (4) above.)**

The Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Suzy Horton commented that she was interested to hear the views of the Forum and that unpalatable decisions sometimes had to be taken but that lobbying central government for additional funding would continue.

- 38. Dedicated Schools Grant 2018-19 quarter one budget monitoring.**
Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report.

DECISION

The Forum noted the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 June 2018, together with the associated explanations contained within the report.

- 39. Schools Block Funding Formula 2018-19 benchmarking.**
Beverley Pennekett introduced the report.

DECISION

The Schools Forum noted the report.

- 40. Any other business.**

At the request of the Chair, Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education gave the following update on the Willows:

- The day care provision at Willows had been the subject of a detailed review in the summer due to the fact it was running up a deficit and despite the best efforts of the Centre to turn things around the conclusion buy had been drawn in this term that the provision was not viable. Governors therefore have reluctantly agreed to close the provision as from 1 April 2019. The consultation process with affected staff (non-teaching staff) will begin next week.
- At the same time the council is working closely with the Centre to move the Willows special school provision to Solent Academies Trust as part of an expansion of Cliffdale Primary Academy. This requires a statutory process which will commence with a pre-statutory consultation next week.
- Work will continue to ensure the projected deficit is managed down. It is possible that the Dedicated Schools Grant carry forward may have to be used to remove the deficit ahead of the move to Solent Academies Trust.

Forum members were reminded that the next meeting would be held on 28 November.

DECISION

The following meeting dates for 2019 were agreed:

16 January
27 February
22 May
10 July
16 October*
4 December

- Post meeting note: The October date has been amended due to room availability.

The meeting concluded at 6pm.

David Jeapes
Chair