

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 4.30pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Laura Park	Head	
David Jeapes	Head Teacher	Secondary Phase
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special Phase
Karen Stocks	Academy	Primary Phase
Sue Wilson	Academy	Primary Phase
Stewart Vaughan	Academy	Secondary Phase
Steven Labeledz	Academy	Secondary Phase
Claire Udy	Councillor	Independent
Kara Jewell	Representative	Early Years

41. Apologies

Apologies were received from Simon Barrable, Alison Beane, Jason Crouch, Nys Hardingham, Dave Jones, Councillor Judith Smyth and Councillor Lynne Stagg.

42. Declarations of Interest

David Jeapes declared an interest in item 5 school funding arrangements 2019-20 and said he would not take part in any discussions regarding his school.

43. Membership Changes

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

- There is one primary maintained school governor vacancy.
- There was already one existing secondary academies vacancy, plus Fiona Calderbank has now resigned. In addition, Steven Labeledz's tenure expires on 17 January 2019, making three secondary academies vacancies in total..

44. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting held on 10 October 2018

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising.

Item 37: Recommendations from the SEND Strategic Review relating to managing the spend within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The Chair informed the forum that the revised proposal would come to the January meeting.

45. School Funding Arrangements 2019-20.

Beverley Pennekett introduced the report and in response to questions, clarified the following points:

- Redefining the notional SEN budget is a "tidying up" exercise and will ensure that Portsmouth's figures are easy to compare with those of other local authorities. It will not affect the funding allocations to schools in any way.
- She agreed that they would attract more scrutiny if the figures are obviously different.
- The table on page 3 shows proposed amended proportions of specific funding factors to be identified as part of the notional SEN budget.

The Chair noted that this seemed a sensible approach. In respect of the proposal to carry forward the school specific contingency, he informed members that schools in deficit will continue to be monitored to minimise any risk.

DECISION

The Schools Forum

- 1. Endorsed the proposals for implementing the funding formula arrangements locally as set out in this report; in particular:**
 - **To amend the percentage of funding allocated to notional Special Educational Needs as set out in paragraph 4.3**
 - **The disapplication request as set out in paragraph 5.3**
- 2. Agreed that the final balance of the school specific contingency be carried forward from 2018-19 to 2019-20 as set out in paragraph 6.4**

46. Dedicated Schools Grant 2018-19 Quarter 2 Budget

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report and in response to a question explained that, despite a planned in-year overspend, we are still predicting an overall surplus on the DSG at the year end.

DECISION

The Schools Forum:

- 1. Noted the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 September 2018, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**
- 2. Endorsed the necessary adjustments to Dedicated Schools Grant to reflect:**
 - **Early years budgets and DSG income budget, to reflect the adjustment in rant funding due to pupil number changes, as set out in paragraphs 3.30 and 3.31.**

- An adjustment to the DSG to reflect the decision by the Secretary of State to approve the transfer of £1.0m to capital to support the development of Redwood Park School.
- An adjustment to the DSG to reflect the decision to support The Harbour School in May 2018.

47. DFE Consultation on the implementation of new arrangements for reporting deficits of the dedicated schools grant

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education circulated a document summarising the consultation and the proposed response from the forum.

In the discussion that followed, the forum made the following comments:

- It was ultimately the government's responsibility to provide adequate school funding to local authorities for distribution to schools. Local authorities should not be required to use corporate resources to fund schools.
- Having run the DSG budget so well for a long time in Portsmouth, the council and schools forum has a strong compelling voice. This should be reinforced in the response to the consultation.

Action

The response would be amended to reflect the forum's views.

DECISION

The Schools Forum endorsed the response.

48. Future meeting dates.

The 2019 meeting dates and venues were noted.

The meeting concluded at 5pm.

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David Jeapes
Chair