

## SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 22 May 2019 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

<b>Present</b>		
Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Dave Jones (Acting Chair)	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Nathan Waites	Head Teacher	Secondary Phase
Ian Hunkin	Head Teacher	Special Phase
Nys Hardingham	Academies	Secondary Phase
Steven Labeledz	Academies	Secondary Phase
Natalie Sheppard	Academies	Secondary Phase
Alison Beane	Academies	Special Phase
Kara Jewell	Representative	Early Years
Mike Gaston	Representative	16-19 Years Provision
Claire Udy	Councillor	Independent
Judith Smyth	Councillor	Labour Party
Lynne Stagg	Councillor	Liberal Democrat Party

### 8. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Simon Barrable (Mike Gaston deputised for him), Jason Crouch, David Jeapes, Kate Keeler, Sonia Nickerson, Stewart Vaughan and Councillor Horton.

### 9. **Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interests were made regarding agenda items.

There are four declarations of interests forms outstanding.

### 10. **Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting on 16.01.2019**

**DECISION:** The minutes for the meeting held on 16 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Item 1 - Mike Gaston did not deputise for Simon Barrable.

Item 5 - The spelling of Kara Jewell's name be corrected.

Item 6 - It was also noted that it is important to improve special school provision in the city and reduce reliance on out of city provision which is very expensive.

## 11. Membership Changes

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant gave the following update on membership:

- There are vacancies for one primary academy and one primary governor. There has been no response to requests for representatives. A note will be sent to the Primary Head Teacher's conference seeking interest.
- Dave Jones' tenure ceases on 1 July.
- Stewart Vaughan's tenure ceases in December.

## 12. Schools Forum Constitution

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report.

There were no questions from members.

**DECISION: The Schools Forum retain the current constitution attached at Appendix A of the report which took effect from 24 May 2018.**

## 14. Schools Funding Arrangements 2019-20 Growth Fund

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report and in response to questions she and Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education clarified the following points:

The funding received in 2019-2020 is higher than normal because it includes the movement of pupils to the University Technical College (which is now full) and the final year of the Mayfield School expansion.

The surplus will reduce over the next three years as the growth in the secondary sector increases.

Retaining this surplus allows for capacity in the system to cover any unexpected school expansions, cover any future reduction in growth funding and to offset any overspend of the DSG if necessary.

The growth fund is reviewed every year.

Officers did not want to set a rate that would have to be reduced the following year. This provides certainty for schools when they are preparing their forecasts.

It would be for the Schools Forum to decide at the end of the year whether to retain the surplus and carry it forward to future years.

Kara Jewell noted that this proposal is similar to what happened with the Early Years funding.

It is essential that the DSG is balanced at the end of the year. If not, a deficit recovery plan would be put in place and future funding reduced. There will be a Government spending review of the DSG in 2020/21.

It is very unlikely that the government would try to claw back any surplus Growth Fund.

Pupil funding is calculated on the number of pupils enrolled at the October census. Growth funding is a contribution towards the funding gap between the pupils starting school at the beginning of the academic year and the school receiving their budget via the funding formula in the following April (maintained schools) or August (Academy Schools).

**DECISION: The Schools Forum approved the changes to the Growth Fund criteria and the move to a banded payment system as set out in appendix 1 new criteria, to be implemented from the start of the autumn term 2019.**

**15. Scheme for Financing Schools 2019-2020**

Graham Smith, Group Accountant introduced the report.

There were no questions from members.

**DECISION**

**The Schools Forum members representing maintained schools approved the revised Scheme for Financing Schools attached at Appendix 1, to come into force on 1 June 2019.**

**16. Timing of meetings**

Alison Egerton explained that there had been some issues in the last two years when changes to the DSG have been received over the Christmas period and it was difficult to fit in time to consult with schools.

She proposed that relevant reports be brought to the Schools Forum for endorsement before the Cabinet Member for Education's decision meetings.

**DECISION**

**The Schools Forum agreed to ensure that its meetings be held before the Cabinet Member for Education's decision meetings.**

**17. DSG Budget Monitoring third quarter 2018-2019**

Alison Egerton introduced the report.

There were no questions from members.

**DECISION: The Schools Forum noted the report.**

**18. School funding reform 2020-2021**

Alison Egerton gave a verbal update on the school funding reform 2020/21.

Consultation with schools will take place over the next two months.

Proposals include:

To maintain minimum funding level per pupil as set by the Department for Education.

The council is looking to maintain per pupil funding next year and is planning to set a zero percent minimum funding guarantee.

The high needs sector is aware of the DfE's call for evidence regarding SEND.

A draft response will be brought to the July Schools Forum meeting for comments. The deadline for submitting the response is the end of July.

Julia Katherine is setting up a range of working groups to revisit some of the proposals to manage the High Needs block differently. There are no proposals to use this process to look at savings. A report would be brought to the July Schools Forum for discussion ahead of any recommendations in the Autumn.

Ian Hunkin explained that the working group had met and was looking at the transition practices. He assured the forum that it was not about saving money.

There were no questions.

**DECISION: The Schools Forum noted the update.**

**19. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 5:20pm

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Chair