

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Dave Jones	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Share D'all	Governor	Primary Phase
Jason Crouch	Governor	Secondary Phase
Jo Cooper	Academies	Primary Phase
Steven Labedz	Academies	Secondary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academies	Secondary Phase
Alison Beane	Academies	Special Schools
Frances Mullen	Representative	16 - 19 Education
Kara Jewell	Representative	Early Years
Terry Norton	Councillor	Conservative Party

38. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Jeapes, Sean Preston, Nys Hardingham, Ian Hunkin, Natalie Sheppard and Simon Barrable (and his named substitute Mike Gaston). Frances Mullen, Deputy Principle of Portsmouth College was present today as the 16-19 representative. Apologies were also received from Councillors Stagg, Udy and Smyth.

39. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant informed the forum that there was one outstanding declaration of interest form from Councillor Udy which she had followed up today.

40. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 and matters arising

Alison Egerton advised that there was one correction needed on page 1 under minute 32, membership changes:

Liz Hardingham should be amended to Nys Hardingham.

The Chair went through the actions from the previous meeting:

- APTs had been brought to this meeting.
- Alison Egerton had contacted the primary heads and a meeting had been arranged for 17 March and she would be contacting the secondary heads shortly to arrange a meeting.
- The growth fund policy is included in the report today.

RESOLVED that the minutes for the previous meeting held on 17 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the above correction.

41. Membership changes

Alison Egerton gave an update on membership:

- There was one vacancy for a secondary academy representative. Nys Hardingham's tenure was due to expire after this meeting. All secondary heads had been written to and Nys had said she was happy to stand again if nobody else came forward.
- There was one primary maintained vacancy as Jackie Collin's tenure was due to expire after this meeting. Jackie had kindly offered to stand again and there was an email out to all primary maintained heads but currently no further nominations had been received.
- There was a vacancy for secondary school governor as Jason Crouch's tenure was due to end after this meeting. There was an email out to both of the secondary maintained schools to see if anyone else was interested but Jason had indicated he was happy to stand again.
- The Harbour School was due to become an academy on 1 February so Ian Hunkin's tenure as maintained special school representative would cease. Alison Beane's tenure was due to expire after the February meeting and Alison Egerton advised she would be contacting all special schools to look for a volunteers.

42. Schools Revenue Funding Arrangements 2020-2021

The report was introduced by Alison Mann, Finance Manager. She explained that on 19 December the provisional allocations for the DSG were announced. The main things to note were that the additional growth funding was more than expected, an area cost adjustment which has given extra money for the extra costs, and the mobility factor. When this data was put into the national funding formula officers found that there was still more money to be allocated to schools and the recommendations today were proposing to increase the lump sum for all schools.

In response to questions Alison Egerton clarified the following:

- The census looks at when a child starts school if they start outside of the autumn term, even if they have come from another school within the city.
- With regard to the growth fund, the council would be sending out a consultation this term to ask schools about ringfencing and carrying forward any balances. If the authority are going to carry forward balances three years fine but by four years it starts to go into a deficit. Schools need to understand what the potential impact would be which is why the consultation is being completed. This will need to be reviewed on a year by year basis.

In response to a question Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education said the council did not have any indication of what funding might be coming from government in future years.

The Chair thanked officers for their report and going out to get feedback and taking this on board.

DECISIONS

The school members of the Schools Forum:

- a. **Endorsed the proposed changes to the mainstream schools revenue funding formula as set out in section 6.**
- b. **Endorsed the school revenue funding pro-forma at Appendix 3 for submission to the ESFA on the 21 January 2020.**

The Schools Forum:

- a. **Endorsed the budget to be held centrally for the payment of central licences negotiated nationally for all schools by the Secretary of State.**
- b. **Approved the carry forward the final balance of the Schools Specific Contingency Fund from 2019-20 to 2020-21 to be used for the same purpose.**
- c. **Approved the Growth Fund criteria for 2020-21 and secondary values as set out in Section 6 and Appendix 4.**
- d. **Approved the budgets to be held centrally, specifically:**
 - **Schools Forum**
 - **Admissions**
 - **Duties retained by the local authority for all schools.**

43. Any other business

Alison Egerton had no other business to report but advised that Kara Jewell had an update. Ms Jewell explained she had put together a paper on early years funding which went back to basics and she was happy to answer any questions on this. Alison Egerton advised she would email this out to the forum after the meeting.

44. Dates of future meetings

The forum noted the following dates of future meetings (all on Wednesdays at 4:30pm):

12 February 2020:- Executive Meeting Room. The Guildhall
8 July 2020:- Conference Room A, Civic Offices
16 September 2020:- Executive Meeting Room. The Guildhall
21 October 2020:- Conference Room A, Civic Offices
2 December 2020:- Conference Room A, Civic Offices
13 January 2021:- Venue to be advised

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm.

Chair