

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 4.30 pm as a virtual meeting.

Present

Jackie Collins	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Dave Jones	Head Teacher	Primary Phase
Jason Crouch	Governor	Secondary Phase
Share D'all	Governor	Primary Phase
Sharon Burt	Academies	Special Schools
Nys Hardingham	Academies	Secondary Phase
Sean Preston	Academies	Primary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academies	Secondary Phase
Simon Barrable	Representative	16 - 19 Education
Terry Norton	Councillor	Conservative Party
Lynne Stagg	Councillor	Liberal Democrat Party
Judith Smyth	Councillor	Labour Party

8. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from David Jeapes and Cllr Claire Udy.

Dave Jones as Vice Chair chaired the meeting today.

9. Declarations of Interest

Alison Egerton said there were no outstanding declaration of interest forms.

No further interests were declared.

10. Membership Changes

Alison Egerton reported that an academy sponsor had expressed an interest in being a secondary school academy representative on the Forum and Chris Purnell from the Thinking Schools Academy Trust would be joining the Forum from the May meeting.

There are two remaining secondary school academy vacancies and Alison would be sending an email after the meeting to seek representatives.

There are two primary academy representatives. Laura Flitton from Court Lane Junior School was attending the meeting today as an observer and it was hoped that she would decide to join the Forum after the meeting.

With regard to tenures that are due to expire before the next meeting, Nathan Waites tenure was due to expire on 22 May and she would be in contact with him to see if he is willing to renew his tenure.

11. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2021 and matters arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12. Dedicated Schools Grant Budget 2021-22

The report was introduced by Angela Mann, Finance Manager.

In response to a question about the Turnaround Project Mike Stoneman advised that this was funded through the Innovation Fund and had been successful in reintegrating pupils in Key Stage 3 at the Harbour School back into mainstream schools through a holistic whole family approach. It is a relatively expensive programme and the funding has come to an end. Officers want to see if this can be continued and will be carrying out some consultation with secondary head teachers and other colleagues to consider working up a model to consider how this could be funded going forward. More detailed proposals would come back to the May Schools Forum once the consultation had been completed.

Julia Katherine added that the evaluation of the project was very positive in terms of increasing the number of children who were successfully reintegrated back into their mainstream schools. The aim is to build on this for any model going forward.

Nys Hardingham had been involved in the project from the outset. She said as a secondary headteacher she had seen a significant advance in the quality of the short stay alternative provision and the impact it has had on children and families. It has allowed more children to remain in secondary schools which has reduced numbers of potential permanent exclusions and reduced some of the increased pressures on SEMH places. She felt this was a small investment in inclusion across the city to prevent pressures on the high needs block.

RESOLVED Schools Forum:

- (1) Endorsed the initial determination of the Schools Budget for 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 1.**
- (2) Endorsed the 2021-22 Special School, Inclusion Centre and**

Alternative Provision Places as set out in Appendix 2.

- (3) Endorsed the 2021-22 Element 3 Top-up values for Special Schools, Inclusion Centres, Alternative Provision settings and pupils with an EHCP in Mainstream schools as set out in Appendix 3**
- (4) Endorsed the proposal to consult with The Harbour School and secondary schools with reference to the Turnaround project as set out in paragraph 5.23.**
- (5) Endorsed the proposal that any carry forward of balances from 2020-21 be used to assist with the continued introduction of the funding reform changes and fund any potential financial pressures arising during 2021-22.**

13. 2020-21 Early Years Providers Covid-19 Additional Grant, Spring 2021

The report was introduced by Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families Education - Education.

In response to a question Mike said that this would be the final payment for this financial year. Alison Egerton added that with regards to the funding relating to Covid, the only legislation change has been to this financial year. With the DSG there is a change in funding in July when the census data is reviewed. With the lower pupil numbers this year, officers are not clear on what the impact will be on funding mid-year. It was not proposed to come back with another grant proposal unless the legislation was to change in the 2021-22 financial year.

RESOLVED

Schools Forum endorsed the proposed grant values to be paid in the spring term 2021 subject to the forecast year end position as set out in Table 1.

The meeting concluded at 4.52 pm.

.....
Chair