

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Dave Jones | Head Teacher | Primary |
| Jackie Collins | Head Teacher | Primary |
| Laura Flitton | Academy | Primary |
| Sean Preston | Academy | Primary |
| Jo Cooper | Academy | Primary |
| Nathan Waites | Academy | Secondary |
| Sharon Burt | Academy | Special |
| Share D'All | Governor | Primary |
| Kara Jewell | | Early Years Provider |
| Russell Simpson | Councillor | Portsmouth Independents Party |
| Sam Galloway | Observer | Solent Academy Trust |
| Patrick Grant | Observer | Education and Skills Funding Agency |

21. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:

Anne Chapman
Caroline Corcoran
Jason Crouch
Mike Gaston
Simon Graham
Nys Hardingham
Anne Hibberd
Councillor Tom Coles
Councillor Suzy Horton
Councillor Leo Madden

22. Declarations of Interest

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager informed the forum that there were declarations outstanding from Councillor Tom Coles; Councillor Leo Madden; Chris Purnell and Anne Chapman.

23. Membership - include vote of Chair and Vice Chair

DECISIONS

David Jones was appointed Chair and Nathan Waite Vice Chair.

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant informed the forum that:

Councillor Judith Smyth had been replaced by Councillor Tom Coles. Councillor Leo Madden is the new Liberal Democrat representative.

Members noted their thanks to Councillor Judith Smyth for her input over a number of years and welcomed Councillors Coles and Madden.

There are currently three vacancies: One primary academy and two secondary academy representatives.

Schools will be contacted regarding the vacancies.

24. Minutes of the previous meeting

DECISION

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 were updated to include Kara Jewell in the apologies and then agreed as a correct record.

25. Matters arising

Item 6 on the agenda is part of the matters arising from the last meeting.

The Chair and Vice Chair have been appointed at this meeting.

Element 3 top up funding for 2022-2023 regarding Flying Bull and Redwood Park. Following the previous Schools Forum meeting, a report was taken to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education's decision meeting on 4 July and all the proposals were approved.

Guidance is still awaited from the government regarding the homes for Ukrainians funding for education settings. As soon as it is received, the council will act upon it.

Schools Forum members were asked for a named substitute that hopefully will support attendance at future meetings. The seven members who have yet to respond will be contacted again.

We are trying to promote new people to Schools Forum and are considering what to do about consistent non-attendance of some individuals. This will come to a future meeting.

26. Element 3 Top-Up Flying Bull Academy.

This item had been included in the agenda in error and so was not discussed.

27. Scheme for financing schools

Angela Mann, Finance Manager introduced the report.

DECISIONS

School Forum members representing maintained schools, approved the revised 'Scheme for Financing Schools', attached at Appendix 1, to come into force on 14 July 2022.

28. 2021-2022 Dedicated schools grant outturn

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report and in response to a question explained that it is expected that the January 2022 census information will confirm that the numbers will be lower than in January 2021 which is what the budget was based on.

DECISIONS

Schools Forum noted the year end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 March 2022, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.

29. School balances as at 31 March 2022

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant introduced the report.

The Chair noted that it was good to see a tighter relationship between the council and schools regarding balances.

DECISION

Schools Forum noted the report.

30. Improving school attendance and reducing exclusions - focus on relational practice.

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Education introduced the report and in response to questions explained that:

The focus is on schools, but the principles of relational practice can also apply to early years. This will be taken back to the RP Steering Group for consideration.

The Project Co-ordinator will work with the RP Steering Group to monitor the programme.

A one-off cost is being sought and the commitment is for three years. He is confident that it is achievable, based on the response to wave one and the number of schools that have already indicated an interest in future waves.

If the impact is not as expected at the end of year two, the programme would be reviewed carefully by the RP Steering Group.

There are approximately 25,000 primary and secondary pupils across the city.

In response to questions, Alison Egerton, Group Accountant added that if all schools took part over the course of the three years the cost is £21 per pupil which is £7 per year. The investment per pupil is small for something which could have a large impact.

Table 6 in the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Budget Outturn report shows that DSG balance has been partially allocated to cover expected pressures over the next couple of years. Approximately £3.8m could be used to schools in the city to support one of the one-off initiatives. If this were to go ahead it would leave approximately £3.3m for further initiatives.

Sarah Christopher, Partnership and School Inclusion Manager added that it is a long-term strategy. In other areas, it has been seen that a reduction in exclusions and suspensions takes at least two years in primaries and in secondaries potentially up to five years.

In Trafalgar, a huge transformation has been seen in less than five years.

The RP Steering Group would look to monitor closely the management and delivery plans which would need to be flexible and responsive to ensure that the programme is having an impact. Feedback would be received regularly from Head Teachers, the PEP Removing Barriers to Inclusion Group and the PEP Strategic Board.

Action

Mike will talk to the RP Steering Group to see if this can be extended to early years provision.

The Forum noted that it would take longer than three years to embed cultural change.

The Chair informed the Forum that his school had been on wave one programme. It had given high level support and a real structure for moving forward.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum endorsed a three-year total commitment of £530,000 from the DSG carry forward as set out in section 4, in order to support the implementation of the strategy to improve school attendance and reduce suspensions, and specifically support a city-wide relational practice programme. Any such endorsement by Schools Forum will be subject to Secretary of State approval.

31. Verbal update re: the DfE implementing the Direct National Funding Formula consultation

Alison Egerton, Group Accountant explained that she was seeking volunteers to be on the subgroup to respond to the government's National Funding Formula consultation.

Nathan Waite and Dave Jones volunteered to be on the subgroup.

32. Dates of next meetings.

5 October 2022
7 December 2022
11 January 2023
9 February 2023

.....
Chair