

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 5 October 2022 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Dave Jones (Chair)	Head	Primary Phase
Jemma Clark	Head	Primary Phase
Jackie Collins	Head	Primary Phase
Simon Graham	Head	Secondary Phase
Laura Flitton	Academy	Primary Phase
Anne Hibberd	Academy	Primary Phase
Sean Preston	Academy	Primary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academy	Secondary Phase
Sharon Burt	Academy	Special
Chris Caddamy		16-19 Representative
Terry Norton	Councillor	Portsmouth City Council
Russell Simpson	Councillor	Portsmouth City Council
Sam Galloway	Observer	Solent Academy Trust

Councillor Suzy Horton was also in attendance.

33. Apologies

Apologies were received from Share D'All and Kara Jewell.

34. Declarations of Interest

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager informed the forum that four declarations were outstanding and would be followed up after this meeting.

Councillor Terry Norton declared a non-prejudicial interest. He no longer works at Mayfield School but his partner does and his daughter attends that school.

35. Membership Update.

The Group Accountant gave the following updates:

Chris Caddamy, the Post 16 Schools Forum representative was welcomed.

Mike Gaston has agreed to continue as his substitute.

There are currently one primary academy and two secondary academy vacancies.

A secondary academy representative may be resigning. Post meeting note: confirmation that the secondary academy representative has resigned, making three secondary academy vacancies.

36. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

DECISION

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July were agreed as a correct record subject to the spelling of Nathan Waites' name being corrected.

37. Matters Arising.

Agenda Item 20 Improving school attendance and reducing exclusions - focus on relational practice.

The RP Steering Group meeting that Mike Stoneman was planning to ask for early years to be considered as part of the programme, was cancelled. This will be covered on the agenda of the rescheduled meeting.

A dis-application request has been submitted to the Secretary of State and we are aware it is being reviewed.

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

A response to the Department for Education's consultation on the National Funding Formula was on 9 September. Thanks were given to those members who responded and supported this process.

38. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring & Revised Budget.

The Group Accountant introduced the report and in response to questions clarified the following points:

There had been no change in the funding provided to the Early Years settings.

The Wymering School has received funding from the DfE in terms of set up costs. However, when the school opens in April 2023 it will be just under 50% full and not financially viable due to the staffing costs. A pre-opening one off grant of £250,000 is therefore sought to support this gap in funding. . The school has provided reassurance that when it is at full capacity, it will be sustainable financially. .

It is likely that there will be a similar situation for new schools in the future so contingency funding will be built in the Dedicated Schools Grant to cover any additional costs that the local authority might be required to pay.

Mike Stoneman Deputy Director of Children's Services and Education added that the school will be full. It is taking 30 places in April 2023 and a further 36 in September 2023.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum:

- 1. Noted the forecast year end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 June 2022, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**
- 2. Endorsed the delegation to the Section 151 Officer or their delegated representative, the responsibility to adjust the Early Years block budget in line with the DSG allocation adjustments annually in July**
- 3. Endorsed the proposed pre-opening grant to the Wymering Free School of £250,000 as set out in paragraph 7.8.**
- 4. Endorsed the revisions to the 2022-23 budget as set out in Appendix 1 and section 8.**

The Chair noted the significant changes ahead in terms of changes in salary scales for teachers and support staff.

The Group Accountant informed the forum that the Schools Finance Officer has started their termly visits to support LA maintained schools through the revised budget process and is looking at the impact of the payroll and energy forecast budgets.

The meeting concluded at 4:55pm

Dave Jones
Chair