

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 7 December 2022 at 4.30pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Dave Jones	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Jackie Collins	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Jo Cooper	Academy	Primary Phase
Sean Preston	Academy	Primary Phase
Chris Restell	Governor	Primary Phase
Nys Hardingham	Academy	Secondary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academy	Secondary Phase
Sharon Burt	Academy	Special Schools
Chris Caddamy	16-19 representative	
Kara Jewell	Early Years Providers	
Russell Simpson	Councillor	
Suzy Horton	Councillor Observer	Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
Sam Galloway	Observer	Solent Academy Trust

39. Apologies

Apologies were received from Anne Chapman, Share D'All (Chris Restell deputised for her), Laura Flitton and Councillor Leo Madden.

40. Declarations of Interest

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager informed the forum that three declaration forms were outstanding.

41. Membership Update.

Ms Egerton gave the following update:

- Since the previous meeting, Jason Crouch and Chris Purnell had resigned.
- Jo Cooper and Sean Prestons' tenures had ended, but they have been reappointed for a further two years.
- There are currently five vacancies:
 - One maintained school secondary governor.
 - One academy school governor
 - Three secondary academy representatives.

- 42. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 October.**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

43. Matters Arising.

Ms Egerton reminded members that a Relational Practice paper was brought to the July Schools Forum meeting. The proposal that this be extended to the Early Years provision was going to be taken to the Relational Practice Steering Group, but their October meeting was postponed.

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Education added that this had not been discussed at the follow up meeting. However, the proposal had been discussed with officers and the Early Years team. Early Years provision, with the exception of those schools that have nurseries, will not be included in the next wave because it is geared for schools, but the team is considering how the programme around restorative practice can be linked to Early Years provision.

44. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring

Ms Egerton introduced the report and in response to questions from members explained that:

The allocations for 2023/ 2024 funding and the associated guidance are expected to be published in the next two weeks. An update is included in the next agenda item.

DECISION The report was noted.

45. Schools Funding Arrangements 2023-24.

Angela Mann, Finance Manager introduced the report and in response to questions, clarified the following points:

- The National Funding Formula rules regarding funding criteria are applied for primary and secondary phases.
- Mainstream schools in Portsmouth do not currently have any split sites but if that changes, the split school funding criteria would apply.
- The special schools funding has been quite bespoke after years of negotiation.
- The Department for Education is considering bringing in split school funding as a mandatory factor.
- Appendix one, per pupil funding level rates the middle column is for 2023/ 2024.

DECISIONS

The Schools Forum:

1. Noted the Department for Education's proposed changes to school revenue funding arrangements for 2023-24, as set out in this report.
2. Endorsed the proposals for implementing the local funding formula arrangements as set out in this report in particular to:
 - Implement the National Funding Formula rates for both primary and secondary schools in 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 1

- Implement a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) of at least 0.0% and up to +0.5% subject to affordability, for 2023-24 as set out in paragraph 5.13
- The method of managing affordability as set out in paragraphs 5.14 to 5.18

46. Removal of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Education introduced the report and in response to questions explained the local authority's statutory responsibilities regarding maintained schools; this includes monitoring school improvement and intervening where necessary according the schools causing concern guidance. He would not recommend relying on a traded service to deliver this because it is the council's statutory duty.

The proposal was supported by the primary LA maintained schools representatives, but the Chair informed the forum that as there were an insufficient number of maintained secondary school members at the meeting, the decision regarding the de-delegation of funding from secondary school budget shares will be brought to the next meeting.

DECISION

The Schools Forum approved the de-delegation of funding from schools' budget shares to continue to provide school improvement services to maintained primary schools from 1 April 2023.

47. Dates of Future Meetings,
11 January and 9 February.

The meeting concluded at 5:05pm.

Dave Jones
Chair