

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held on Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at 4.30pm via MS Teams.

Present

Jemma Clark	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Jackie Collins	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Simon Graham	LA Maintained	Secondary Phase
Jo Cooper	Academy	Primary Phase
Laura Flitton	Academy	Primary Phase
Sean Preston	Academy	Primary Phase
Mike Garlick	Academy	Secondary Phase
Nys Hardingham	Academy	Secondary Phase
Anne Hibberd	Academy	Primary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academy	Secondary Phase
Sharon Burt	Academy	Special
Share D'All	Governor	Primary Phase
Chris Caddamy	16-19 education	
Kara Jewell	Early Years	
Leo Madden	Councillor	
Terry Norton	Councillor	
Russell Simpson	Councillor	
Sam Galloway	Observer	Solent Academy Trust
Suzy Horton	Councillor, Observer	Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

48. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Jones, Mike Stoneman and Alison Egerton.

Nathan Waites chaired this meeting.

49. Declarations of Interest

There are three outstanding declarations of interests.

50. Membership Update.

Mike Garlick was welcomed as the new Secondary Academy Representative.

Angela Mann, Finance Manager informed the forum that there are three vacancies:

- One mainstream secondary governor.
- One academy primary representative.
- One academy secondary representative.

51. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2022.

DECISION

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

52. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

53. School Funding Arrangements 2022-23

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

The focus has been on 2023-24 mainstream funding and the next priority will be to get the High Needs funding agreed. The funding information was received very late. It may be possible to do some modelling for 2025. However, there are currently many unknowns. It is not known what the Department for Education (DfE) will do with the additional grant. It may be part of the block again next year. Fortunately, there is a carry forward which will help to support future pressures. She asked that forum members give their thoughts and ideas of how officers can work with forum members.

As this is the first year that we did not have the disapplication requests, so the effect has potentially been masked before. The per pupil funding value is set by the DfE based on the previous year's census pupil characteristics, if the pupil characteristics in the current year's census vary from the previous year, this can impact on the funding available to pass to schools via the formula. In October 2021 our pupil characteristics were slightly better than in October 2022 which meant that there was less funding provided for 2023-24 than was required to fund the pupil characteristics.

She would anticipate would be in a similar position next year. Will raise it with the DfE.

Sarah Daley, Director of Children Services and Education added that there several elements of the funding process that we will want to raise with the DfE. These conversations are going on across other areas.

In response to further questions, Angela Mann explained that:

The minimum funding rates are set nationally, and different Local Authorities have different school set ups.

There are no KS3 or KS4 only schools in Portsmouth. **Post Meeting Note:** The University Technical College covers key stage 4 pupils which are funded by the city council, along with post 16 year groups who are funded separately by the Department for Education.

The licences are mandatory; the DfE informs us of the cost and gives us the funding. These apply to both mainstream schools and academies.

The forum asked that officers raise the concerns of Early Year Providers with the DfE regarding funding.

The proposal is that the same criteria for the Growth Fund be used as were agreed by the Schools Forum last year.

Actions

The following information will be brought to a future meeting:

- Whether the minimum funding level for KS4 pupils at KS4 at a UTC has a different weighting than pupils in a secondary school.
- Whether the PAN is in our scheme because it must be above the agreed PAN.

DECISIONS

The School Members of Schools Forum:

1. **Endorsed the proposed changes to the mainstream schools' revenue funding arrangements as set out in Section 5 and Appendix 2.**
2. **Endorsed the school revenue funding pro-forma at Appendix 3 for submission to the ESFA on 20 January 2023.**

The Maintained School Members of Schools Forum:

1. **Endorsed the use of the carry forward on the Schools Specific Contingency for the same purpose in 2023-24 as set out in Section 6.**
2. **Endorsed the de-delegated unit values in relation to the School Improvement, monitoring and Brokerage Grant of £10.42 for each Primary pupil and £10.42 for each secondary pupil.**

The Schools Forum:

1. **Endorsed the budget to be held centrally for the payment of central licences negotiated nationally for all schools by the Secretary of State.**
2. **Endorsed the use of the 2022-23 underspend on the Growth Fund for use for the same purpose in 2023-24.**
3. **Approved the Growth Fund:**
 - **Budget for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 1 • Schools Forum**
 - **Admissions**
 - **Duties retained by the local authority for all schools.**
 - **Criteria for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 4**
4. **Approve the budgets to be held centrally specifically as set out in Appendix 1.**
5. **Endorsed the Early Years Funding Formula for two, three and four year olds as set out in section 8, Table 5, and Appendix 1.**
6. **Endorsed the Place numbers for Special Schools, Inclusion Centres and Alternative Provision Settings as set out in Section 9 and Appendix 6.**

The meeting ended at 5:20pm.