

## SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Schools Forum held virtually on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 4.30pm

<b>Present</b>		
Dave Jones	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Jackie Colins	LA Maintained	Primary Phase
Laura Flitton	Academy	Primary Phase
Emily Marshall	Academy	Primary Phase
Nathan Waites	Academy	Secondary Phase
Sharon Burt	Academy	Special
Share D'All	Governor	Primary Phase
Kara Jewell	Early Years	
Suzy Horton	Observer	Councillor
Sam Galloway	Observer	Solent Academy Trust
Patrick Grant	Observer	Dept for Education
Jack Jones	Observer	

### 62. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jo Cooper, Mike Garlick, Nys Hardingham and Sean Preston.

### 63. Declarations of Interest

The attendees had no changes to make to their declarations of interest.

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager informed the forum that declarations of interest forms had been sent to the new members.

### 64. Membership Update.

The forum noted that:

- Councillor Ryan Brent and Councillor Chris Dike had joined the forum.
- Kara Jewell had extended her tenure.

The following tenures are due to end before the next meeting:

- Laura Flitton, primary academy phase. She will not be standing again and was thanked for her work on the forum.
- Nathan Waite, secondary academy phase. He would like to stand again.

The following tenures are due to end after the July meeting:

- Share D'All, LA maintained primary governor.
- David Jones, LA maintained Headteacher, primary phase.
- Anne Hibberd-Chapman, primary academy phase.

There are five vacancies:

- Two academy primary representatives.
- Two academy secondary representatives.
- One governor, secondary phase.

**65. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**66. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023**

**DECISION**

**The minutes held on 9 February were agreed as a correct record.**

**67. Schools Forum Constitution 2023-24**

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager introduced the report.

In response to a suggestion, it was agreed that a snapshot of vacancies would be included in future reports.

**DECISION**

**That the Schools Forum retain the current constitution which took effect from 25 May 2021 subject to the following amendment:**

**Section 4.10**

**Councillors from political groups with the highest number of elected members Total 4**

**68. Scheme for financing schools**

Angela Mann, Finance Manager introduced the report and in response to a question clarified that the assessment form can be completed over the course of the financial year, reviewed, and approved by school governors at any time during the financial year, but must be submitted to the City Council by 31 March. On receipt of the assessment form, the City Council has until the 31 May to submit the annual return to the Department for Education. .

**DECISION**

**The Schools Forum representing maintained schools, approved the revised Scheme for Financing Schools to come into force on 25 May 2023.**

**69. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring**

Alison Egerton, Finance Manager introduced the report.

In response to comments, Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Childrens Services and Education explained that:

Usually places for children with Education Health and Care (EHC) plans going into years 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been allocated by mid-February. However, this was not achieved this year. He assured members that plans are in place to ensure that this would not happen next year.

As well as vacancies in the SEND team there are also local and national shortages of educational psychologists.

Nearly 100% of assessments were made within the 20-week statutory timescale.

Details of support for schools particularly those who are taking on year R pupils who are going through an EHC assessment will be available shortly.

There will also be guidance about how the Dedicated Schools Grant and high needs block can support mainstream schools in particular around funding pupils with the EHC plans.

The Chair noted that this was the first time that this delay had happened and appreciated the Deputy Director's openness about it.

Alison Egerton noted that they are waiting for details regarding early years and pay awards. Questions were put to the Department for Education through the South East Education Finance Officers' Group about additional funding for pay awards, but it is not something that is currently planned.

**RECOMMENDED that the Schools Forum notes the forecast year end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 December 2022, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.**

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm.

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Dave Jones  
Chair