

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2012
AT CANTELL MATHS & COMPUTING COLLEGE**

Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
Colin Warburg	-	Governor
Liz Filer	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Chris Bulmer	-	Headteacher

Secondary Schools

Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Richard Harris	-	Governor (Chair)

Special Schools

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Nursery Schools

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Joanne Anslow	-	14-19 Partnership(Substitute for Beverley Murtagh)
Anna Wright	-	PVI for Early Years

Observers

Sue Thompson	-	EYCP
Councillor Paffey	-	Peartree Ward Councillor

Also in attendance:

Clive Webster	-	Children's Services and Learning
Lynn Franklin	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Susan Trigger, Ian Golding, Beverley Murtagh, Suzy Foster and Karl Limbert.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Paffey as an observer to the meeting.

Members passed a vote of thanks to Ruth Evans who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for 20th June and Jonathan Howells, Cedar School had very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

The Chair commented that he had received a letter of thanks from Carolyn Worthy who had recently retired.

2. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2012 were approved as a correct record.

3. **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM 2013-2014**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Finance Manager, Children's Services and Learning providing further information on the Department for Education's (DfE) plans for a reformed funding system from April 2013, for comment. It was noted that Finance would use the DfE spreadsheet and national data, to start modelling scenarios.

A discussion ensued and the following issues and concerns were noted:-

- The number of allowable factors that could be used in the funding formula had been reduced to 9.
- Deprivation – IDACI scores and FSM numbers. Although modelling would be done on both, it was felt that FSM was a simpler method.
- It was identified that the current prior attainment measure for low cost, high incidence SEN is achieved by the use of the Fisher Family Trust indices, whilst there are 2 new measures proposed, EYFSP and KS2 assessments there does not appear to be a suitable measure for Junior aged pupils.
- English as an additional language funded for a maximum of 3 years after the pupil entered the school system. Members raised the query as to whether the 3 years would commence from the statutory age of 5, there was also concern around the early cut off of this funding,
- School census day – 4th October. Members expressed concern at data being used from the October Census rather than the January Census as many schools admitted pupils after this date and this would lead to major funding issues. There was also concern raised that the October Census would be too early to include the "University children" that come into the area.
- It was agreed that the Chair would write to the DfE on behalf of the Forum expressing their concerns at (1) the early cut off of funding for EAL (3 years) and (2) the changed date of the School census from January to October.
- New delegation of budget items which could be retained centrally. For each of these budget items, it would be for Schools Forum Members in the relevant phase (secondary or primary), to decide whether that service should be retained centrally.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee would continue to be set at -1.5% per pupil. As there would be significant amounts of protection required in some areas, the DfE would be allowing overall gains to be capped or scaled back and it would be up to the Authority and the Forum to determine whether and

how to limit gains.

- Funding for special schools and units would be taken out of the ISB and form part of the High Needs Block. It was noted that there would be finance implications for high and low incidence SEN and more information should be obtained from the SEN group prior to any modelling.
- Pupil referral units would be receiving delegated budgets for the first time in 2013-14 and the level of budget would include all services delegated to other schools.
- Changes to Schools Forums in relation to composition of the Forum, limiting the attendance of local authority officers, giving the Education Funding Agency observer status and restriction of voting arrangements in relation to the funding formulae.
- Two working groups would be formed to look at the Primary/Secondary formula and the SEN/AP formula and it would be useful to have School Forum representation on these working groups.

The Forum expressed the following initial views:

- That the proposed funding be allocated to the new 9 factors.
- That the use of both deprivation measures (IDACI and FSM) needed to be modelled before a view could be expressed.
- That there were issues with the IDACI banding.
- Maintain central budgets for liability insurances, trade union duties and bilingual assistants – members to discuss at their relative conferences prior to expressing a view.
- Method for limiting gainers – to be discussed at conferences prior to expressing a view.
- That the queries surrounding EAL, university children and SEN junior measures be added to the consultation document and fed back to the DfE before the deadline of Monday 21st May 2012.
- Volunteers for working groups.
Primary/Secondary Formula – Colin Warburg, Mark Sheehan, David Turner
SEN/AP Formula – Liz Filer.

4. **SCHOOLS FORUM PROGRAMME OF WORK 2012-2013**

Members received the provisional programme of work for 2012/13 and noted that more meetings had been scheduled to cover the need to discuss and agree a model for the school funding reform from April 2013.