

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18th JULY 2012
AT CANTELL MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE**

Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Richard Harris	-	Governor (Chair)

Academy

Ian Golding	-	Principal
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Nursery Schools

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Special Schools

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Beverley Murtagh	-	14-19 Partnership
Anna Wright	-	PVI for Early Years
Councillor Keogh	-	Council representative

Observers

Sue Thompson	-	EYCP
Councillor Turner		Lib Dem Observer

Also in attendance:

Clive Webster	-	Children's Services and Learning
Alison Alexander	-	Children's Services and Learning
Lynn Franklin	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Jane Altounyan	-	CRC Officer - SCC
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Susan Trigger, Liz Filer, Suzy Foster, Ruth Evans, Graham Wilson, Councillor Bogle and Karl Limbert.

The following changes in membership were noted:-

Chris Bulmer , Primary Headteacher would be stepping down and Peter Howard, Headteacher, Fairisle Junior would be her replacement; and Susan Trigger, Secondary Headteacher would be stepping down and Graham Wilson, Headteacher, St George's Catholic VA College would be her replacement.

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 19th September and Beverley Murtagh, St Anne's Catholic School, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Peter Sopowski reported he had an interest in the new school funding formula Item no 6.9) regarding the costs for trade union supply. It was noted that he could participate in the discussion but could not vote on this issue.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2012 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

Richard Harris reported that he had emailed the DfE on behalf of the Schools Forum regarding concerns over the pupil count changing to October from January and the early cut off of funding for EAL. The DfE response was that they would include a mobility factor which would cover turbulence figures and an uplift factor which would include reception pupil numbers between October and January.

4. **MEETING PROCEDURES**

Voting procedures: It was clarified that in future, when a formal vote was undertaken, numbers for, against and abstained would be recorded and no names recorded unless specifically requested.

5. **SCHOOLS ENERGY : CRC, ECS, ENERGY PROCUREMENT**

The Forum received a briefing paper from Carbon Reduction Officer, providing details on Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and requesting Members to confirm whether the unspent amount should be delegated directly to schools, retained within the ISB contingency or added to the intervention fund.

The following was noted:-

- The council's Energy Team was responsible for reporting the energy usage and purchasing allowances for schools and academies utilising "Systems Link" and the energy contract was managed through Kent County Council, called "Kent Laser".
- Schools which were more pro-active in seeking to reduce their energy bills were in effect subsidising those that were less energy efficient.
- Managing energy records for academies and analysing their contribution to the overall CRC liability was becoming more difficult as academies' finances

- were separate to maintained schools.
- There were many advantages in having energy procured through the Laser contract which would run to 2016.
- As a result of a dispute with British Gas, a new gas supplier, Total would be replacing them with effect from October 2012 and as they did not supply gas to the domestic sector, their service to business and the public sector should be more efficient.
- It was extremely important that all schools and academies upload accurate monthly meter readings via the Systems Link web site as under CRC there were heavy fines and/or penalties for inaccurate data.

A discussion ensued on where the unspent amount of £42,805 should be delegated.

RESOLVED that a further report would be tabled at the September meeting, detailing proposals on how the unspent amount of £42,805 could be utilised to improve schools' efficiency and knowledge relating to the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

6. **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM**

The Forum considered a decision paper from the Education and Economic Development Finance Manager detailing the progress made on the development of the new School Funding Formula and requesting that the Forum agree a number of recommendations, including a decision on which option to take to schools for consultation.

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

- The timetable for agreeing the School Funding Reform would be :
September meeting – agree final option model
Consultation with schools – 3-4 weeks
October meeting – final sign off of agreed option model
End October – submit to DfE
November – Cabinet Member decision to agree formula and funding.
- The DfE has now increased the number of factors that can be used in the new schools funding formula to 12, 11 if you are not a London Fringe authority.
- A Mobility factor has now been added and the forum agreed that this should be included in the SCC schools formula for 2013-14.
- Four options have been modelled, but unfortunately the updated data from the DfE was not received in time for this meeting. The options will be remodelled for the September meeting at which a decision on which model to recommend needs to be made.
- Members felt that there should be more data available to understand how each of the factors affects schools, it was agreed that we would publish further details after the next funding workshop in September and prior to the next meeting.
- The funding working group proposed that the factor for deprivation needs to be targeted at the 30% and above most likely children to come from a deprived family. It was agreed by the forum to exclude any pupils who would

be below the 30% threshold.

- It was agreed that there should be a cap on all gains to ensure that MFG can be funded, however a request was made for there to be a fairer tapering of gains, this option will be modelled and presented at the next meeting.
- PFI factor Schools were being asked to fund the £1.2M deficit which previously had been paid for by the authority; this deficit had to be spread out within the childrens' agenda; the same funding formula would be applied to all schools, including academies and free schools; the 3 PFI schools which provided education in deprived areas would also be affected.

This issue had been discussed at both the Secondary and Primary Heads Conference and on putting to the vote, Members voted against funding the PFI affordability gap from the Schools Budget, with concerns being raised about the 20 year time span and the unknown outcome of the funding reform which could detrimentally affect the finances of all schools.

For – Nil

Against – 11

Abstained - 2

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote, the following was agreed:-

- (i) That nine proposed Primary/Secondary formula factors including the Mobility factor and **excluding the PFI factor** be approved.
For – 12
Against – Nil
Abstained – 1
- (ii) That a PFI factor Should not be included.
- (iii) That officers would put forward a report containing an amended version of the 4 options tabled today at the September meeting for the Forum to make a decision.
- (iv) That officers would provide more details on proposals to move funding between the Schools Block SEN Notional Budget and the High Needs Block for pupils with low incidence at the September meeting for approval.
- (v) That the following newly delegated budgets be managed by the local authority on schools' behalf:
It was noted that contingencies could only be held for maintained schools and not academies.

Insurance (Liability Insurance - £242,000)

For – 8

Against – 3

Abstained - 1

Staff Costs or supply cover (trade union and public duties - £58,000)
Did not include academies
For – 8
Against – Nil
Abstained – 3

Contingency for exceptional unforeseen costs which would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet (Intervention Fund - £250,000)
For – 9
Against – 3
Abstained – 1

Funding for significant pupil growth to be added to the Contingency for schools in financial difficulties (ISB contingency - £120,000)
For – 12
Against – Nil
Abstained – 1

- (vi) To note that approval would be sought in the Autumn for a contingency for significant pupil growth and for contributions from the Schools Block to school focused services delivered by the Council.
- (vii) That the proposed Special School and Special unit funding formula be approved.
For -Unanimous
- (viii) That the Alternative Learning Funding formula would be tabled at the September meeting for approval.

COLIN WARBURG IN THE CHAIR

7. FINAL ALLOCATION OF DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2012/13

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools detailing the final allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2012/13, confirmed by the Department for Education.

It was AGREED that the additional resource of £10,000 would be added to the Intervention Fund for 2012/13.

8. BEST PRACTICE REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS FORUM

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools reviewing the recent research produced by the Local Government Association on good practice review of the role of Schools Forums.

The following was noted:-

- That training should be provided to all School Forum members.
- The process adopted by School Forum members to disseminate, with clarity, decisions to constituents, stakeholders and the wider community should be

periodically reviewed, as should the effectiveness of sub-groups to maximise their contribution and relevance.

- Continuous review of membership to ensure the Forum was representative of the local community.
- Periodically review the level and frequency of involvement that Senior Managers and officers have in Schools Forums.
- Increased promotion of the Schools Forum and its role and remit within the LA.