

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM  
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012  
AT ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC VA COLLEGE**

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Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
Colin Warburg	-	Governor
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher
Liz Filer	-	Headteacher
Peter Howard	-	Headteacher

Secondary Schools

Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher
Graham Wilson	-	Headteacher
Richard Harris		Governor (Chair)

Academy

Ian Golding	-	Principal
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Special

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Beverley Murtagh	-	14-19 Partnership
Anna Wright	-	PVI for Early Years
Chris Pritchard	-	Diocese

Observers

Sue Thompson	-	Early Years/Sure Start
Councillor Turner	-	Ward Councillor for Swaythling
Allan King	-	Headteacher – Highfield CE Primary School

Also in attendance:

Keith Reed	-	Governor – Highfield CE Primary
Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member, Children's Services and Learning
Clive Webster	-	Executive Director – Children's Services and Learning
Lynn Franklin	-	Children's Services and Learning
Chris Tombs	-	Children's Services and Learning
Karl Limbert	-	Children's Services and Learning
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

1. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**

Richard Harris was appointed to serve as Chair of the Schools' Forum for the municipal year 2012/13.

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

Apologies were received from Ruth Evans, Suzy Foster, Councillor Keogh and Alison Alexander.

The Chair welcomed Allan King, Headteacher and Keith Reed, Governor, Highfield CE Primary School as observers to the meeting. Keith Reed provided Forum Members with a 5-minute presentation on their response to the proposed removal of the split site factor from the funding formula.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> December and Ian Golding, Oasis Academy, Lordshill, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

Attendance - Primary School - Page 1

Liz Filer, Headteacher to be added to the attendance schedule as present.

4. **CHANGES TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM ARRANGEMENTS AND AMENDMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Forum Administrator, outlining the new requirements and improved arrangements in respect of Schools Forums.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- the Forum already adhered to most of the new requirements;
- the restriction of voting arrangements to only school and PVI members would only take effect in 2013; and
- that members were asked to comment on the composition of the Forum going forward in relation to the regulation requiring that maintained primary schools, secondary schools and academies be represented on the forum in proportion to the number of pupils in the schools.

The following was **AGREED**:-

- that the structure of the Schools Forum be monitored and would continue through the current academic year, as a number of schools were in the process of converting to academy status; and

- that the changed structure of the schools forum going forward should include a fair balance between heads and governors within the different school sectors.

## 5. **SCHOOLS FUNDING REFORM**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Principal Accountant, Children's Services, providing details of the consultation responses, Highfield C of E Primary School's presentation in relation to the exclusion of a split site factor within the new formula and school funding comparisons, for the Forum to agree the final recommendations on the new Southampton Schools funding formula in relation to:-

- inclusion of the split site factor;
- funding £450,000 through the PFI factor; and
- allocation of any "headroom" funding within the 2013-14 Schools Block to the PFI factor.

The Forum received a presentation from Mr Reed, Governor at Highfield C of E Primary School in relation to the recommendation to exclude the split site factor within the new formula. The Forum noted that the consultation responses had not been in favour of including the split site factor and that it should not be an automatic right, but that funding could target unavoidable costs.

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

- that officers had made representations to the DfE in relation to the two Oasis Academies' grant funding and had requested an exemption from the MFG, but their request had been refused;
- that the Local Authority faced a £30M budget gap next year partly as a result of an 8.2% cut in government grants,
- that the request to fund £450,000 through the PFI factor was not about the PFI factor, but about helping the Local Authority fund the budget gap. It was noted that nationally schools had a protected level of funding.

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

- (i) that the inclusion of a split site factor in the funding formula be revisited.  
For 15
- (ii) that £450,000 be funded through the PFI factor  
For – Nil  
Against – 3  
Abstained – 13
- (iii) that "headroom" funding within the 2013-14 Schools Block be allocated to the PFI factor  
For – 1  
Against – 7  
Abstained – 8

The following was noted:-

- that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning would be making a cabinet decision to the effect that £450,000 and "headroom" funding within the 2013-14 Schools Block would be allocated to the PFI factor;
- that the Forum wished it recorded that the contribution of £450,000 through the PFI factor contributing towards the budget deficit be **for one year only and that it be consulted on/looked at on an annual basis**; and
- the following motion put forward by the Chair on behalf of the Schools Forum be recorded:-

*"The Schools Forum wished to register with Southampton City Council their understanding of the difficulties in which they find themselves due to the Government cuts in grant funding. They also wished to register the fact that they had not come to their decisions easily and appreciated the fact that Southampton City Council was asking the Forum to add a PFI factor amount of £450 000 and not the full amount of £1.2M into the new funding formula model"*