

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2012
AT OASIS ACADEMY, LORDSHILL**

Present:

Primary School

- David Turner - Governor
- Liz Filer - Headteacher
- Rita Baker - Headteacher - Substitute for Peter Howard

Secondary Schools

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

Academy

- Ian Golding - Principal

Special

- Jonathan Howells - Headteacher

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

Observers

- Sue Thompson - Early Years/Sure Start
- Councillor Turner - Ward Councillor for Swaythling

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Bogle - Cabinet Member, Children's Services and Learning
- Karl Limbert - Substitute for Clive Webster
- Lynn Franklin - Children's Services and Learning
- Chris Tombs - Children's Services and Learning
- Karl Limbert - Children's Services and Learning
- Mary Higgins - Children's Services and Learning
- John Spiers - Capita
- Clyde Jackett - Capita
- Sharon Pearson - Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Colin Warburg, Graham Wilson, Suzy Foster, Mark Sheehan, Councillor Keogh, Peter Howard, Clive Webster and Alison Alexander.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 23rd January 2013 and Liz Filer, Bassett Green Primary School, very kindly agreed to host the meeting.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2012 were approved as a correct record.

3. **HOME EDUCATION**

The Forum received a decision paper from the Inspector for Vulnerable Children, Children's Services, seeking financial support from schools to create a position in the local authority to look after the needs of Southampton's Elective Home Educated (EHE) children/young people.

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

- there were approximately 134 home educated children/young people in Southampton that were known which represented 0.5% of the school population;
- that the city council had a legal obligation to intervene where it appeared that a child/young person was not receiving a suitable education;
- a relevant job description was essential and concerns whether 2 days a week would be adequate for this proposal;
- concerns relating to parents' reasons for opting for home education in terms of safeguarding issues; and
- that the possibility of a research-based project be funded for a year to determine whether this would be a worthwhile ongoing project.

RESOLVED that a further report with more details be tabled at the 23rd January 2013 meeting for decision.

4. **UPDATES TO THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

The Forum received, noted and considered the briefing paper of the Senior Manager, Property, Procurement and Contract Manager for the Forum to note the updates and amendments to the Scheme for Financial Schools.

The following key changes were noted:-

- removal of those SLA's no longer available to purchase from Southampton City Council;
- reference to the responsibilities on schools to manage repair and maintenance; and

- the inclusion of reference to statutory legislation with regard to health and safety and the responsibilities on Governing bodies with regards to health and safety.

RESOLVED that consultation takes place with all governing bodies and head teachers in Southampton on the amended Scheme for Financing Schools.

5. **CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING (CSL) SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Forum received and noted the schedule detailing the proposed savings proposals.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that the Council had to find £20 Million savings and Children's Services and Learning's contribution was £6 Million, which involved the loss of 126 fte (full-time equivalent posts);
- concerns relating to the decommissioning process, specifically in terms of safeguarding and contracted services relating to youth support/young carers; it was noted that young carers had a statutory right of assessment and referrals were made via schools and adult services;
- the possibility of schools sharing costs between themselves;
- that the contribution towards the PFI affordability gap was shown as being for three years;
- that with the merging of the Children's Services and Learning and Adult Social Care and Health directorates to the "Peoples Directorate", it was imperative that the right structures and change management were put in place.

It was **AGREED** that officers would provide the Forum with a further report providing details of what the actual position/impact would be on schools after final figures were received from national government. It was noted that this would be on Christmas Eve, 24th December 2012.

6. **NEW DELEGATIONS SCHOOLS BLOCK**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant Corporate Services recommending that the Forum reconsider the delegation and de-delegation of services currently held within the Schools Block.

A discussion ensued and it was noted that in respect of Liability Insurance and Trade Union Duties, the new regulations stipulated that the budget had to be delegated to all schools including academies and that only maintained schools could de-delegate the funding to a central budget which left a shortfall.

RESOLVED:-

- that funding for employee liability insurance be delegated to all schools and that a Service Level Agreement be issued to those schools wishing to buy back into the service; and
- the trade union facilities budget be delegated to all schools with a similar option of a Service Level Agreement as above.

7. **ALLOCATION OF GROWTH FUND TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2013-14**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Principal Accountant Corporate Services seeking approval of a mechanism for distributing the resources held within the growth fund.

The following was noted:-

- Option 1 – additional funding based on the planned increase in PAN x Primary AWPU (average weighted pupil unit) x 7/12ths – this option was currently in use and would involve increasing the contingency funding by £176,000;
- Option 2 – additional funding based on the increased number of classes required (based on 30 pupils per class), funded on the costs of a teacher, an LSA and a lunchtime supervisor – there was sufficient funding to resource this option.

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote that Option 2 be proposed.

FOR – Unanimous

8. **SCHOOLS FORUMS OPERATIONAL AND GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE 2012**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant Corporate Services detailing the Department for Education's (DfE) published Schools Forums Operational and Good Practice Guide 2012.

It was noted that the Schools Forum Constitution and Terms of Reference would be updated to accommodate the above changes/amendments.

9. **SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant, Corporate Services detailing the updated regulations which will come into force by 1 January 2013.