

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2013
AT CANTELL SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

David Turner	-	Governor
John Draper	-	Headteacher - Substitute for Peter Howard
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher
Colin Warburg	-	Governor

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris		Governor (Chair)
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Academy

Ian Golding	-	Headteacher
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Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Special

Jonathan Howells	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary
Councillor Lloyd	-	Council Representative

Also in attendance:

Councillor Turner	-	Observer
Graham Talbot	-	People
Lynn Franklin	-	People
Chris Tombs	-	People
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Ruth Evans, Graham Wilson, Karen Dagwell, Jane Smith, Beverley Murtagh, Liz Filer, Anna Wright, Sue Thompson and Alison Elliott.

The Forum noted that Councillor Lloyd had been formally nominated as the Council Representative, replacing Councillor Keogh.

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 11th September 2013 and Mark Sheehan, Mansbridge Primary School, very kindly offered to host the meeting.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising from Minutes 19th June 2013

The Forum agreed to send a letter to the EFA to express disappointment that the fund for schools with falling rolls is restricted to good or outstanding schools only. There are improving schools in Southampton that would benefit from this additional allocation, particularly when forecast pupil numbers indicate that all secondary schools in Southampton will be exceeding their Published Admission Number by September 2018.

3. **SCHOOL FORUM FUNDING MEMBERSHIP 2013-14**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools for the Forum to agree the proposed proportion of schools, non schools and academy representation.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- School and Academy members were required to number at least two thirds of the total membership of the Forum and the balance between primary, secondary and academy members must be proportionate to the pupil numbers in each category.
- The DfE would be changing the Schools Forum regulations in 2014-15 which required Forums to include a representative from post 16 education to replace the existing representative from the 14-19 partnership.
- That membership of the Forum could be increased to ensure that the Forum was quorate when decisions were required to be made and that representation from the primary and secondary sector could be maintained.
- Academy members must be elected by the proprietor bodies of the Academies in the authority's area and were therefore not restricted to principals, senior staff or governors.

RESOLVED

- that the Schools Forum membership should be increased to 24, to be reviewed after a year, membership representatives as follows:
 - Primary 7 representatives (2 governors)
 - Secondary 4 representatives (1 governor)
 - Academies 4 representatives (suggested - 1 governor)
 - Special 2 representatives (1 governor)
 - Nursery 1 representative
 - PRU 1 representative
 - Non-Schools 5 representatives (Early Years, Post 16 education, Council representative, Teacher unions and Diocese); and
- that once the process for increasing the size of the Forum had been agreed, officers would write to all Academies informing them that nominations would

be sought through the Conferences and that they should let their Conference Chairs know if their Academy wanted to be represented.

4. **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM 2014-15**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, providing benchmarking information that compared elements of the Southampton funding formula with that of its 10 statistical neighbours.

The following was noted:-

- **Deprivation** – the data collected under this factor would indicate that Southampton is a high funding authority nationally for deprivation.
- **Lump Sum** –the data collected indicated that Southampton is below the national average.
- **Looked After Children** – the factor has been updated to include children who have been looked after for one day or more. This year's formula was based on children who had been looked after for 6 months or more.
- **Pupil Mobility** the DfE has confirmed that this will only be targeted at schools with over 10% of its children starting other than September.
- A substantial amount of pupil mobility was created by parents wishing to move their children to a different school for a variety of reasons during the course of the year.
- The data presented indicated a significant change in funding to schools when adopting the new criteria.
- Officers to provide an updated report at a future meeting.

5. **PRIMARY GROWTH FUND CONTINGENCY 2014-15**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, recommending that the Forum approve a proposed method of allocation of resources held within the growth fund.

The following was noted:-

- Option 1 – additional funding based on the planned increase in PAN x primary AWP x 7/12ths – targeted more funding to schools than Option 2.
- Option 2 – additional funding based on a fixed amount of £33,400 per extra class (30 pupils per class – costs of a teacher, LSA and lunchtime supervisor).

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote, Option 2 was proposed.

Option 2 – 7

Option 1 – 1

6. **SECONDARY FALLING ROLLS CONTINGENCY 2014-15**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools recommending that a decision be made on whether to hold a fund for falling rolls in 2014-15 and if so, the method of allocating the funding.

The Forum expressed concern that support was only available to schools judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection. It was noted that the analysis in Appendix A of the report had been calculated on the assumption that schools would qualify if pupil numbers fell below 75% of net capacity and using this criteria only one school qualified.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- The falling rolls contingency funding would be part of the national formula in 2014 and was a mechanism proposed by the DfE to keep good schools established when experiencing difficulties.
- The Forum always operated on a fair funding basis and it was felt that the mechanism was flawed .

RESOLVED that upon putting to the vote :-

- no falling rolls contingency funding be allocated this year

For - 7
Abstained – 1

7. **PRIMARY MERGERS FUND 2013-14**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools providing an analysis of the Primary Mergers Fund for financial year 2013-14.

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

- That it was difficult to predict the actual costs at this stage.
- Schools that carried a large surplus balance should be asked to contribute towards their own costs during the merger.
- That officers would not allocate any money that was not required and any unspent contingency balances would be allocated back to all schools.
- A report detailing actual expenditure would be tabled at the end of the financial year.