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SCHOOLS FORUM

Wednesday, 29th April, 2015
at 3.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

**Mansbridge Primary School,
Octavia Road,
Mansbridge,
Southampton SO18 2LX**

This meeting is open to the public

LEAD OFFICER

Dave Cuerden, Finance Manager

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FORUM ADMINISTRATOR

Ed Grimshaw

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AGENDA

Agendas and papers are now available via the City Council's website

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 1 - 4)

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2015, attached.

4 INTERVENTION FUND

(Pages 5 - 8)

Report of the Interim Head of 0-25 Services, setting out details of the Intervention fund, attached.

5 PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015/16

(Pages 9 - 10)

Programme of meetings and proposed business, attached.

23 April 2015

HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2015
GREAT OAKS SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

John Draper	-	Headteacher, Swaythling Primary School
Amanda Talbot-Jones	-	Headteacher, St Denys Primary School
Julie Swanston	-	Headteacher, Woolston Infant School
Mark Sheehan	-	Headteacher, Mansbridge Primary School

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris (Chair)	-	Governor, Cantell Maths and Computing College
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher, Cantell Maths and Computing College

Special Schools

Andy Evans	-	Headteacher, Great Oaks School
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Academies

David Turner	-	Governor, Townhill Infant School
Lyn Bourne	-	Headteacher, St Anne's Convent

Pupil Referral Unit

Alison Parsons	-	Headteacher, Compass School
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Non Schools

Councillor Paffey	-	Council Representative
Chris Ode	-	Substitute for Peter Sopowski, TLP

Also in attendance:

Councillor Jeffery	-	Cabinet Member for Education and Change
Robert Hardy	-	SCC – People Directorate
Dave Cuerden	-	SCC Finance
Sharon Pearson	-	SCC – Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Anna Wright, Peter Sopowski, Sue Thompson, Peter Howard, Toni Sambrook and Theresa Leavy.

It was noted that the following Members had resigned and replacements were in the process of being recruited:-

Alice Wrighton – Headteacher, Richard Taunton Sixth Form College, Post 16
Karen Waters – Headteacher, Hardmoor Early Years Centre
Liz Mizon – Primary Governor, Bassett Green Primary School

Members passed a vote of thanks to Andy Evans who had very kindly provided the

venue and refreshments for the Meeting.

Mark Sheehan, Mansbridge Primary School kindly agreed to host the Meeting scheduled for 29th April 2015.

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

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 14th January 2015 and 20th January 2015 were approved as a correct record.

3. **ALLOCATION OF GROWTH FUND TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2016/17**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager seeking approval of a proposed method for distributing the Growth Fund to Primary Schools.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that currently Primary Schools that were affected by growth in the forthcoming year received an allocation based on the increased number of classes required; the sum that had been agreed at the Schools Forum Meeting in December 2012 was £33,400 based on the costs of a Teacher, a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) and a Lunchtime Supervisor;
- that it was very costly to recruit teaching staff and the Hampshire Portal cost £500 each time it was utilised to recruit staff;
- that in light of recent pressures within the Dedicated Schools Grant the methodology for distributing the Growth Fund required to be reviewed; and
- that a review of the Growth Fund and/or the financial level would need to take place on a yearly basis to ensure that there was adequate resource to fund future increases in Published Admission Numbers (PAN).

RESOLVED

- (i) that Option 2 be adopted with additional funding being based on the increased number of classes required (based on 30 pupils per class) as detailed below:-
- | |
|--|
| £26,600 per extra class (based on the costs of a Teacher, an LSA and a Lunchtime Supervisor for 7/12's of the year |
| £ 1,000 recruitment costs |
| <u>£ 2,400 sundries</u> |
| Total <u>£30,000</u> ; and |
- (ii) that the above additional funding for sundries only applied to Schools that did not receive capital funding for a new build.

4. **SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND UNIT PROVISION 2015/16**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Finance Manager outlining the proposals for the funding of Special Schools, Units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) from April 2015.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Maintained Schools with a Special Unit were funded on the basis of a flat £10,000 per place plus a per pupil top-up for the actual number of pupils in their School;
- that whilst there was not a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for Special Schools and Units, there was a requirement that the top-up element of the funding was set at such a level that, if all the places were filled and the pupils came from the Maintaining Authority, the School's budget would be reduced by no more than 1.5%;
- concerns were expressed that although Schools with an increasing number of pupils would see an overall increase in funding, smaller Schools would be detrimentally affected; and
- concern was expressed over the late receipt of the proposed funding for Special Schools, Units in Maintained Schools and Pupil Referral Units.

5. **INTERVENTION FUND**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service providing details on the criteria governing the Intervention Fund.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that a revised figure for the de-delegated Intervention Fund of £100,000 for 2015/16 had been agreed at the 20th January 2015 Meeting;
- de-delegated budgets were available for all Maintained Schools which included Free Schools but did not include Academies, Special Schools, Nurseries or the Pupil Referral Unit;
- concern was expressed that the 14/15 underspend would be rolled forward if not used to resource one Interim Executive Board per year, rather than being paid back to Schools. Later in the meeting it was agreed that any unspent Intervention Fund monies could legitimately be carried forward by the LA and there was not a requirement for this to be repaid to the schools. Under the proposal any unspent Intervention Fund Monies in 2014/15 would be carried forward for use to benefit mainstream schools in 2015/16.

A discussion ensued and the following was AGREED:-

- that the five proposals relating to the use of the Intervention Fund outlined in the briefing paper be endorsed;
- that a further paper on the Intervention Fund would be submitted to the 29th April 2015 meeting; and
- that an update report on the Intervention Fund would be submitted to the Forum on a 6-monthly basis.

6. **DE-DELEGATION**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service seeking agreement to undertake further work on additional areas for de-delegation.

The following was AGREED:-

- that officers should undertake further work and submit detailed proposals to a future meeting on potential de-delegation in the following areas:-
 - Behaviour Support;
 - Restorative Practice; and
 - Independent Placements for Pupils Accused or Convicted of Serious Criminal Offences; and
- that officers would investigate how Academies could contribute towards the costs of these services.

7. **PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT**

The Forum received the briefing paper of the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service providing details on the Pupil Premium Grant for Children Looked After in 2014/15 and setting out proposals for its retention and use in 2015/16.

The following issues and comments were noted:-

- that the 2015/16 funding for the Pupil Premium Grant for Children Looked After had still not been confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE);
- that for 2015/16 it was proposed to retain £1000 per pupil; and
- that the budget allocations for this grant would be amended to include a budget allocation for Personal Education Plans (PEP) of £50,000.

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Intervention Fund
DATE: 29th April 2015
RECIPIENT: Schools Forum

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

Intervention Fund

At the January 2015 meeting of Schools Forum, a revised figure for the de-delegated Intervention Fund of £100k for 2015/16 was agreed.

A further paper clarifying the criteria to be applied to this use of this fund was agreed in March, in relation to intervention and to support for schools in financial difficulties.

That same paper also identified a potential underspend against the 2014/15 Intervention Fund, which would be rolled forward to supplement the 2015/16 budget.

During that discussion a number of further issues were raised, which this paper seeks to clarify

Additional Issues

1. Firstly, we are now able to clarify the exact amount of the 2014/15 underspend. This amounts to £206,000. Please see Appendix 1 for details of the spend from the Fund in financial year 2014/15.
2. Schools Forum agreed in March that £70,000 of this should be earmarked to meet the additional costs associated with supporting a school graded as requiring improvement (including the costs of an IEB), leaving the balance for the 2015/16 Intervention Fund of £236,000 made up as follows:

2014/15 Carry Forward	£206,000
De-Delegation from Schools in 2015/16	£100,000
	£306,000
Intervention Fund 2015/16	£306,000
Earmarked for school requiring improvement	-£70,000
	£236,000

3. Given that this funding is de-delegated from mainstream primary and secondary school budgets, further clarification was suggested about which schools were eligible to apply.

BRIEFING PAPER

4. This clarification is to suggest that a further criterion be added to those agreed in March to the effect that access to support from this Fund should be limited to local authority maintained primary and secondary schools only.
5. It is however proposed that an option needs to be created for Academies, Free Schools, Special Schools and the PRU to contribute to the Intervention Fund in order to be eligible to receive support from it also needs to be considered.
6. The pro-rata contribution for each school not eligible for the de-delegation can be identified if requested. Where a school is interested in joining the scheme they will need to notify Robert Hardy and David Cuerden upon which an SLA will need to be signed.
7. This would be based on the same amount de-delegated per pupil from mainstream primary and secondary schools and based on October 2014 census numbers. For Special Schools the charge would be per place and not per pupil.

Further Information Available From:

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BRIEFING PAPER

Appendix 1

Use of Intervention Fund 2014/15

	£
2014/15 Intervention Budget	327,600
Regents Park – IEB and associated support costs	77,500
Support Visits to SCC Schools from Davis Lane School, London	4,000
Oakwood Infant– 50% contribution to clear capital deficit on primary merger.	9,300
Woodlands – Support for school improvement	19,400
Mount Pleasant – School Support	1,400
Valentine Primary – Additional Allocation to support improvement	10,000
Total Allocated During 2014/15	121,600
Balance C/Fwd 2015/16	206,000

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Agenda Item 5

SCHOOLS FORUM

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015/16

Programme	Date	Meeting date
Provisional Programme of Work Intervention Fund 2014/15	April 2015	29/04/2015
Final Allocation of DSG 2015/16 Schools Balances Education and Early Year Capital Programme Secondary School Expansion Proposals	June 2015	24/06/2015
Election of Chair Register of Interests Membership of the Forum – Terms of Reference Special Schools Funding Review Updates to School Funding Formula 2016/17* Children's Services Saving Proposals update*	September 2015	09/09/2015
Scheme for Financing Schools Financial Benchmarking 2014/15 SLA's 2016/17 Update on proposals for additional de-delegated budgets for 2016/17, (Previous briefing March 2015) Update on Secondary growth Update on Special Schools growth, (actuals 2015/16 & exception return 2016/17)	October 2015	21/10/2015
Schools, High Needs & Early Years block 2016/17 budget including agreement by Schools forum for all central expenditure and de-delegated budgets from Schools Block.	January 2016	13/01/2016
Review of contingency / Intervention Fund expenditure 2015/16 Special School Top-up rates 2016/17	March 2016	09/03/2016

*If required

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