

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013
AT HARDMOOR EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Richard Harris		Governor (Chair)

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
Anna Wright	-	PVI for Early Years
Councillor Lloyd	-	Substitute for Councillor Keogh

Also in attendance:

Alison Elliott	-	People Director
Graham Talbot	-	People
Lynn Franklin	-	People
Sue Thompson	-	People
Karen Wardle	-	Democratic Services

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

Apologies were received from Graham Wilson, Karen Dagwell, Jane Smith, Beverley Murtagh and Councillors Bogle and Keogh.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 10 July 2013 and Ruth Evans, Cantell Maths and Computing College, very kindly offered to host the meeting.

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Page 2 - Matters arising - Pupils with Statements, Resolution (iii) - Richard Harris reported he had sent a letter to the DfE regarding the concerns on the DfE model.

Page 5 - Item 5 – Capital Programme 2013/14 – Funding Gap – last bullet point – Chris Tombs to clarify whether a letter had been sent to the DfE.

3. UPDATES TO SCHOOLS FUNDING REFORM 2014-15

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools reviewing the Department for Education findings from a review of 2013-14 school funding and the arrangements and changes for 2014-15.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:-

- Deprivation: there were no national guidelines for the correct amount of funding in the formula for deprivation. Forum requested that comparisons be taken with Southampton's statistical neighbours and other local authorities who have high levels of deprivation. A report to be presented at the next meeting.
- Looked after children: Children in Southampton in 2013/14 were funded if they were looked after for six months or longer. The DfE will require a single day or more be used as the measure. It was questioned how many additional children might need to be funded, however this information was not available at the meeting. It was agreed that comparisons with the existing data and the new DfE data set will be undertaken and presented at the next meeting. There was also a discussion regarding what constitutes a looked after child and clarification was sought;
- Pupil mobility: all schools received funding under this factor in 2013-14. In 2014-15 this would change and 18 primary school and 4 secondary schools in the City would receive funding under this category. It was agreed that finance would model the affect on schools if the overall pot were to remain the same for 2014-15, proposals to be presented at a later meeting.
- Lump sum funding: The lump sum for Southampton was lower than the average local authority lump sum due to more funding being allocated via the pupil led factors including deprivation. Forum requested comparisons be taken with Statistical neighbours etc and this be presented at the next meeting.
- Merging Schools: The DfE recognise the benefits of merging schools and that these may take time to enable greater efficiency savings. Merging schools could keep 85% of the lump sums for the next financial year following the year in which they merge;
- It was questioned whether the local authority would review the need for a contingency for merging schools, if they were given this funding. It was agreed a report would be tabled at the next Forum meeting detailing the proposed allocations from this contingency;

- Falling rolls: The DfE has recognised the need to hold a contingency fund to support schools with falling rolls. This will be restricted to schools with a good or outstanding Ofsted rating only, which does not help those improving schools in Southampton. It was agreed that a letter be written to the DfE from the Schools Forum expressing concern that not all schools were recognised with falling rolls;
- Improved communication: The DfE want improved communication between Schools Forum members and the groups they represent. It was noted that agendas and papers were circulated to all Headteachers and were publically available on the internet. Members were expected to circulate the information to the groups they represent. It was suggested the link to the Schools Forum papers be sent to the Governors Forum and Early Years Providers (through Jeanette Miller);
- Notional SEN budget: it was noted that some schools were worse off, in particular those with a high level of pupils with low incidence SEN. The budget will be reviewed again for the new financial year 2014-15;
- High needs funding: The DfE are considering whether to introduce a new high needs factor in 2014/15. The DfE want a formula / criteria which would be simple and transparent and should be devised so that additional funding would targeted only to a minority of schools. This raised concern amongst Forum members. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Forum requested a report regarding contingency funding for the merging schools, be tabled at the next meeting;
- (ii) the forum requested a report detailing statistical comparisons in respect of the lump sum and deprivation be presented at the next meeting along with comparisons in data provided for looked after children.
- (iii) a letter be sent to the DfE from the Schools Forum expressing concern about the proposal to extend funding to good or outstanding Ofsted rated schools with falling rolls and seeking the DfE to reconsider extending the funding to all schools;
- (iv) a contingency fund to support good or outstanding schools with falling rolls, particularly in the secondary sector be considered for 20/14/15;
- (v) a nomination be sought for a representative from the Post 16 further education sector to be a member of the Schools Forum;
- (vi) it was noted that no changes were recommended to the lump sum for 2014/15.

4. **SCHOOL BALANCES 2012/13**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, detailing the revenue and capital balances held by schools at the end of 2012/13.

There was a discussion amongst members on whether information could be provided for Academies. Concern was expressed amongst some members regarding schools that were holding excess balances.

RESOLVED that the schools with excess balances be written to requesting reasons why they were holding excess balances and where the money would be spent. A report on the responses to be presented at the September meeting to include

analysis of Academy balances where available.

5. **USE OF ISB CONTINGENCY 2012/13**

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant for Schools, detailing how the 2012/13 ISB contingency of £120,000 (agreed by the Schools Forum) had been used.