

**SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOLS' FORUM
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2013
AT MANSBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Present:

Primary School

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

Secondary Schools

Richard Harris	-	Governor
Ruth Evans	-	Headteacher
Karen Dagwell	-	Headteacher

Nursery

Karen Stacey	-	Headteacher
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Non Schools

Councillor Paffey	-	Council Representative – substitute for Cllr Lloyd
Anna Wright	-	PVI provider of early year entitlement
Alice Wrighton	-	Post 16

Also in attendance:

Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Sue Thompson	-	Observer – EYCP
Councillor Turner	-	Observer
Mike Watts	-	SCC - HR
Jo Francis	-	SCC - HR
Graham Talbot	-	People
Lynn Franklin	-	People
Chris Tombs	-	People
Sue Poynter	-	People
Sharon Pearson	-	Democratic Services

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Richard Harris was unanimously voted in as Chair for the 2013/2014 year.

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Lloyd, Pete Sopowski, Liz Filer, Jonathan Howells and Graham Wilson.

Alice Wrighton, Principal of Taunton College and Post 16 representative was welcomed as a new member and the Forum noted the following changes in membership:

Jonathan Howells had resigned as a Special School representative and Andy Evans would be replacing him in the future.

Ian Golding had resigned as an academy representative.

It was noted that an email had been sent to all academy head teachers at the start of the school term inviting nominations for academy representation as the new structure of the Schools Forum required 4 academy representatives and to date Jeannie Gibbons, Ludlow Infant School had expressed an interest as had Colin Warburg and David Turner.

Members wished Chris Tombs every success in his move to a different area of work in the Council and passed a vote of thanks for his hard work and close involvement with the Schools Forum and Southampton Schools. Sue Poynter was welcomed as the new Principal Accountant, Schools.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for 23rd October 2013 and Alice Wrighton, Tauntons College, very kindly offered to host the meeting.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising from Minutes 10th July 2013 – Item 6 – Secondary Falling Rolls Contingency 2014-15 – Page 3

The Forum noted that a letter had been sent to the EFA expressing disappointment that the fund for schools with falling rolls was restricted to good or outstanding schools only and to date had not received a reply.

4. **HR ISSUES OF INTEREST TO SCHOOLS FORUM**

The Forum received a verbal update from Mike Watts, Head of Strategic HR in relation to HR issues of interest to the School Forum relating to “equal pay” and “living wage”.

The following was noted:-

- that there needed to be a commitment by all employers to pay a living wage of £7.45/hour; this ruling applied to all non-teaching staff at maintained schools and that academies would be encouraged to join the commitment;
- that there had been a number of high court rulings where it had been found that the authority had the power to influence a decision and was therefore responsible for a schools local decision;
- the issue of Equal Pay would need to go to a formal consultation and it was suggested that a representative group of head teachers and governors be nominated to represent all schools, as agreement needed to be reached with the unions;

- new legislation now allowed teachers to be employed on wages which did not adhere to the national standard.

The following was AGREED:

- that schools would be requested to grant permission for the local authority to obtain employment/wage data for school staff; and
- that the Forum would be provided with updates on “equal pay” issues on an ongoing basis.

5. **PEOPLE DIRECTORATE TRANSFORMATION**

The Forum received a verbal update on changes to the People Directorate by Graham Talbot, Head of Education.

The following was noted:-

- that the transformation of the People Directorate would involve the reconfiguration of children’s and adult social care services;
- one of the proposed themes was to put together an effective early help/intervention service for young children and pre-school children;
- a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) would be established incorporating all the different agencies; and
- officers would provide the Forum with further updates on an ongoing basis.

6. **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2014-2015**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager, Corporate Services requesting that the Forum recommend the proposed Primary and Secondary School Funding Formula to be put forward for consultation with all schools before final approval by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services in October.

The following was noted:-

- mobility factor – should the recommendation of the Forum be to continue with this factor then funding would only be targeted at schools with mobility over 10%. An analysis was presented, giving an indication of the likely impact on individual school funding.
- PFI factor - Officers to provide information on how this was impacting on schools;
- that schools were no longer required to contribute to the council’s carbon Reduction Commitment from April 2014 so £160,000 would be delegated to schools through the per pupil factor;
- support for schools in financial difficulties had been reduced to £346,000 as it excludes schools who have converted to academy status, funds can therefore only be distributed to maintained schools ;
- notional SEN block and High Needs Block – it was confirmed that there were likely to be transfers of funding from High Needs to School block to help to fund the first £6,000 of additional educational support that schools are now responsible for, however due to continued pressure within the High Needs

block there is likely to be a need to transfer funding in from the Schools block. Details of the proposed movements between blocks would be made at the January 2014 meeting before final figures were issued to the Education Funding Agency.

- Special Schools and Pupil Referral Unit – proposed pupil top up rates would be tabled at a later meeting.

RESOLVED that the Forum agreed the following:-

- (i) Mobility factor – that finance would produce a set of revised options and that responsibility be delegated to officers to approve the option that would provide a more equitable balance between option 1 and option 2.
- (ii) PFI factor - 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 not increasing this amount;
- (iii) that the proposed funding values for the 2014/15 School Funding Formula be noted;
- (iv) to note that the proposals for funding of the central expenditure items from the Schools Block would be tabled at the October meeting ;
- (v) to approve a contingency amount for the Primary Review Growth Fund of £734,800 including one additional class at Thornhill Primary School;
- (vi) to approve a contingency of up to £346,000 for maintained Primary and Secondary Schools in financial difficulty; and
- (vii) to note the proposal to allocate any “headroom” funding within the 2014-15 Schools Block through per pupil funding.

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SCHOOLS FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE 2013/2014

The Forum received and noted the briefing paper of the Principal Accountant Schools identifying the changes to the Southampton Schools Forum Constitution (including Terms of Reference) for 2013-14.