

**SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**  
**COMPASS SCHOOL**

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Present:

Primary School

- |                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Peter Howard        | - | Headteacher, Fairisle Junior 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

- |                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Jacky Partridge | - | Substitute for Andy Evans, Headteacher, Great Oaks School |
|-----------------|---|---|

Academies

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

Pupil Referral Unit

- |                |   |                             |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Alison Parsons | - | Headteacher, Compass School |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|

Observers

- |                    |   |                          |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sue Thompson       | - | Early Years/Sure Start   |
| Beverley Pennekett | - | Education Funding Agency |

Also in attendance:

- |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Jeffery | - | Cabinet Member for Education and Change |
| Robert Hardy       | - | SCC – People Directorate                |
| Donna Chapman      | - | SCC – ICU Unit                          |
| 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, Alice Wrighton, Karen Waters and Councillor Dr Paffey.

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

Graham Wilson – Headteacher, St George's Catholic VA College  
Ewan Scott – Headteacher, Chamberlayne College for the Arts

Jeannie Gibbons – Headteacher, Ludlow Infant Academy

Beverley Pennekett from the Education Funding Agency was present as an observer and was welcomed to the Meeting.

Members passed a vote of thanks to Alison Parsons who had very kindly provided the venue and refreshments for the Meeting.

The Forum was informed that prior to this Meeting an email had been received from the Department for Education (DfE) informing officers that the mobility factor in the allocation tool provided to the Local Authority was incorrect and consequently this had resulted in the figures in the reports submitted to the Meeting being incorrect.

A discussion ensued and it was AGREED that a Special Meeting would be convened on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 where an amended briefing paper would be provided which would include options to meet the shortfall in funding for the High Needs Block.

It was also AGREED that details on the Private Initiative Funding (PFI) would be provided to Members.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved as a correct record.

## 3. **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK**

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

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that any monies not utilised in the High Needs Block would be transferred back into the Schools Block;
- there was no increased Dedicated Schools Grant to cover the significant increase in places at Special Schools for 2015/2016 which would increase from 458 in September 2014 to 508 in September 2015/2016. It was AGREED that officers would inform the Forum at the March meeting the outcome of a query sent to the Department for Education in respect of why the funding for 2015/2016 did not cover the increase in High Needs places. A response was due by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015; and
- concerns were expressed in relation to Schools being reimbursed for support of more than 12 hours per week **during term time only**. It was noted that professionals had to be recruited on a full-time basis as they would not accept part-time employment and the shortfall in salaries would have to be funded by the Schools themselves.

4. **2015/2016 SCHOOLS BLOCK**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager detailing the 2015/16 Schools Block and requesting approval of the Central Expenditure elements, including the de-delegation of the centrally held Trade Union budget.

The following issues and concerns were noted:-

- that specific criteria should be set for the De-delegated Budget – Intervention Fund and Schools applying for this support funding should meet the requisite criteria; this budget should not be utilised for School improvements or by Schools with deficits;
- that Academy, Special School and Non-School Members were not eligible to vote on de-delegated budget funding and Primary and Secondary Members were only entitled to vote on their own phase;
- that the 2015/2016 Primary Growth Fund (to support those Primary Schools expanding as part of the Primary Review) should not be reduced and should be kept at the 2014/2015 rate of £33,400 per extra class as the Forum felt it was important that an experienced teacher be recruited rather than a newly qualified teacher (NQT) and the reduced funding would not cover the salary of an experienced teacher; and
- that officers provide further clarity on the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) Licences budget.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the de-delegation of the centrally held Trade Union budget at a rate of £70,600 in 2015/16 be approved; and
- (ii) that as the figures detailed in the reports were incorrect, officers would submit an amended briefing paper, which would include options to meet the shortfall in funding for the High Needs Block for a decision at the Special Meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

5. **EARLY YEARS BLOCK**

The Forum considered the decision paper of the Finance Manager detailing the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocated within the Early Years Block and requesting approval of the Central Expenditure elements.

It was noted that Early Years funding (participation funding) differed from School funding because providers were funded for the child's hours that were provided each term, rather than on an annual pupil count.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the proposed Early Years Block funding of £14.0 million be noted; and
- (ii) that the following Central Expenditure elements of the Early Years Block be approved:-

• Early Years and Childcare Development Team	£ 318,400
• Provision for expansion of 3 and 4 year old places	£ 265,900
• Contracts with National Child-Minding Association, Pre-School Learning Alliance and MENCAP	£ 221,500
• Data Team Officer responsible for allocating funding to providers	£ 32,000
• Overheads covering central costs including Finance, HR and IT	£ 172,600
• AVCO System	£ 8,700

## 6. SOUTHAMPTON SEND OUTREACH SERVICE

The Forum received a briefing paper from the Interim Head of the 0-25 Service outlining how the key elements of the current outreach support to Mainstream Schools could be re-shaped to deliver an integrated service.

The following comments and issues were noted:-

- that an increase in Special Schools places would relieve pressures on Maintained Schools;
- that Special Educational Needs (SEN) assessments were now being completed prior to children commencing school in Year R;
- that there would be one Outreach Service for Schools, provided by Springwell School;
- that the Outreach Services provided in Year 1 would be a Level 1 **free** core service, a level 2 **charged** enhanced service, a Level 3 **charged** intensive service and **charged** additional services; and
- that a paper providing further details on the Integrated Southampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Outreach Service would be submitted to a future Meeting.