

SCHOOLS FORUM
NOTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2015
CANTELL MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

Present:

Primary School

Peter Howard	-	Headteacher, Fairisle Junior School
John Draper	-	Headteacher, Swaythling 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
Anne Murphy	-	Business Manager, St Anne's Convent

Pupil Referral Unit

Alison Parsons	-	Headteacher, Compass School
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Non-Schools

Anna Wright	-	PVI Provider of Early Year entitlement
Peter Sopowski	-	NUT Secretary

Also in attendance:

Councillor Jeffery	-	Cabinet Member for Education and Change
Theresa Leavy	-	SCC – People Directorate
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 Amanda Talbot-Jones, Liz Mizon, Karen Waters, Alice Wrighton and Councillor Dr Paffey.

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

Andy Evans, Great Oaks School kindly agreed to host the Meeting scheduled for 11th March 2015.

The following was confirmed in relation to queries and concerns raised at the Meeting on the 14th January 2015:-

- **Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) Licences** –from 2015/16 the Department for Education (DfE) would purchase these licences on behalf of Schools nationally. Schools would not need to purchase these directly and therefore the funding would be held as a Central Services Budget and the Average Weighted Pupil Unit would be adjusted to fund the central allocation.
- **Private Finance Initiative (PFI)** – Confirmation was provided that the amount that the Local Authority paid towards the contract from the General Fund, £360,000 would be picked up by the three PFI Schools as per an agreement with the Schools, phased in from 2018. The amount of £450,000, PFI factor, that reduced the budget share for all Schools, would continue to the end of the contract in August 2031.
- **support of more than 12 hours for High Needs places during term time only** – the 45.62 week contract was included within the rate and therefore the post was fully funded.

2. **SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS BLOCKS**

The Forum considered the briefing paper of the Finance Manager outlining the changes made to the proposals for the High Needs Block and Schools Block presented at the 14th January 2015 Meeting. The briefing paper was considered in conjunction with the reports provided for the Meeting on 14th January 2015, in order that decisions on the recommendations previously outlined could be made.

The following was noted:-

- that prior to the 14th January 2014 Meeting an email had been received from the Department for Education (DfE) informing officers that the Mobility factor in the allocation tool provided by the DfE was incorrect and consequently this had resulted in the figures in the reports being incorrect;
- that there had been an error in the number of Maintained Special School places that had been presented as there should have been 170 places at Great Oaks and not 162 as previously detailed; this had created a further pressure which would require a corresponding increase in the level of transfer from the Schools Block of £90,500;
- if the Primary Growth Fund rate per classroom was retained at £33,400 for 2015/16 it would create a further pressure of £183,600 within the Schools Block. It was AGREED that a paper would be submitted to the March Meeting proposing a new rate for the Primary Growth Fund to commence with effect from April 2016;
- that the following three options to reduce the Schools Block funding for transfer to the High Needs Block was presented to the Forum for decision:-
 - **Option 1** – reduce the Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) by a further £95.02 and scale all gains back by 100%;
 - **Option 2** – reduce the fixed lump sum by £34,770 with no changes to AWPU and scale all gains back by 100%; and

- **Option 3** – reduce the fixed lump sum by £17,000 (50% of Option 2) with the balance coming from AWPU (£48.15) and scale all gains back by 100%;

the preferred option was Option 1, as this reduced Schools budgets proportionately in line with pupil numbers; and

- de-delegation of the Intervention Fund – a decision was required to de-delegate this budget for 2015/16 and Primary and Secondary Members would need to decide separately for their phase. Monies not spent in this fund would revert back to the Schools Block. It was AGREED that the budget for this would be reduced to £100,000 and that a paper would be submitted to the March Meeting proposing a set of criteria on which funding bids could be assessed. It was noted that there were no contingencies or surplus funding to fall back on if this fund was not adequate.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the following Central Expenditure elements of the Schools Block be approved:-

- Primary Review Growth Fund £ 901,800
- Admissions Function £ 422,100
- MASH and Early Help £ 626,800
- CLA and MPA Licenses £ 127,500

De-delegated

- Intervention Fund £ 100,000
- Trade Union Duties (approved at £ 70,600
the 14 January 2015 Meeting)

- (ii) that the transfer of £1,808,300 of funding between the Schools Block and High Needs Block for 2015/16 be noted; and
- (iii) that Option 1 to reduce the Schools Block to fund the pressure within the High Needs Block be approved.