

**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
- £ 2,400 sundries
- Total £30,000; 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.