

Schools Forum Meeting Minutes - DRAFT - held on the 6th October 2016 at The Avenue

PRESENT

Peter Kayes	Governor, Redlands - CHAIR
Charles Clare	Headteacher, Geoffrey Fields Junior
Lisa Bedlow	Headteacher, Caversham and Newbridge nurseries
Joan Boyd	NUT
Mandy Wilton	Cranbury College
Phil Davies	Prospect School
John Cosgrove	Headteacher, Christ the King (RC) School
Yvonne Jackson	Headteacher. Wilson School

RBC

Steven Davies	Finance
Richard Blackmore	Head of Education
Theresa Shortland	Head of Early Years
Sheila Reynolds	SEN Manager
Myles Milner	Education Asset Management

APOLOGIES

Eileen McElligott	Governor, English Martyrs
Justine McMinn	Headteacher, EPC
Isabel Sandy	Kendrick - Business Manager

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- Welcome
- Apologies noted

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th July 2016

- No changes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP ISSUES (STANDING ITEM)

- No matters arising

4. MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOLS FORUM

- Review of membership needed due to many areas being overdue.
- Charlie to review Mainstream Primary Rolls
- LA to send out emails to encourage Primary academies to join.

5. DSG BUDGET MONITORING 16-17

Presented by: SD

- SD confirmed the final outturn figure for 15-16 that has a £1.1m deficit that has carried forward to 16-17.
- £1.1m made up of 2m deficit on High needs and 0.9m surplus on Early Years
- 16-17 DSG allocation has been confirmed after academy recoupment.
- Schools Block has been reduced due to St Johns and Newtown academy conversions.
- Pressure on Growth fund due to paying for increase business rates in year
- Growth fund review could increase pressure depending on agreement.
- Early Years block on target with projects relating to 30hrs commencing.
- High Needs block estimated to be £2.4m over spent in year. Due to Placements increasing.
- SD noted that some schools with deficit balances could covert in year and possible payment of deficit funds from remaining schools would be needed.
- Appendix 1 – split down the variances and which block they are in to help understand the outturn

6. BUDGET 2017-18: FORMULA UPDATE, KEY DECISIONS & TIMETABLE

Presented by SD

- Details on School formula processes and time table
- Details on current central retentions and de-delegations that will be discussed at the December Schools forum
- Council will reduce factor by 1.5% to create head room and to move towards High need deficit.
- Some members of schools forum would like to have IDACI within Formula. SD said there is no resource to look into this change for 17-18 but if the national funding formula looks like it's not happening for 18-19 then the work will be done for July 17 Schools forum if requested again.

7. EXCESS BALANCES FROM 15-16 - UPDATE

Presented by SD

- More details requested from July 16 meeting to explain excesses balances and to review past history of schools balances.
- Excess balance is over 8% of Primary balance and is 5% for Secondary's
- It's up to Schools Forum to see if they want the LA to review the balances and to feedback of LA opinion's
- SD gave LA opinion of the situation and the LA thought it was harsh to ask for funds back from 15-16 when we are over half way through the 16-17 year.

Outcomes

- Forum agreed to not claw back any funds for 15-16.

8. EARLY YEARS FUNDING CONSULTATION

Presented by Theresa Shortland

- New early Years National funding formula
- Formula set-up for 30hrs introduction in Sept 17
- Flat rate for all settings from 2019
- Deprivation to stay but not more than 10% (currently 30%)
- LA capped at 7% retained funding
- EYPP continues
- More details on SEN children in early years without a plan
- Maintained Nurseries to lose out but are given transition grant.
- Working groups for Maintained Nurseries and SEN have been created
- Formula to be completed by Christmas for Jan 17 schools forum
- 2 Year old rate increasing for all settings

9. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE (VERBAL)

Presented by Sheila Reynolds and Richard Blackmore

- The high needs block is under serious financial pressure
- SR is reviewing systems and processes to make sure that the core service is being run correctly. SR will be creating a short term post to review the data and work on trends to give us forecasts on future SEN placements to assist the budget and create strategies to handle pressures.
- SR will be working with Sue Briggs closely to understand the pressures within schools
- We have a key target to transition all statements to EHCPs by March 18. Currently around 45%

Chair has to leave meeting and was replaced by deputy chair - CC

10. GROWTH FUND REVIEW

Presented by SD

- Review of Growth fund was agreed in May School Forum and small working group set up
- Working group discussed issues, possible changes
- SD worked on 3 options regarding lump sum payments, increase in unit rate or both.
- Any change in the funding would strain the growth fund due to previous pressures stated. Option A would cost an additional 133k (cheapest option)
- SD clearly stated that Schools forum will discuss the revenue impact and the capital issue will need to be dealt with the expansion board.
- Myles Milner agreed with the principal and will report back to the expansion board and report back in December 16
- Due to members of Schools forum being limited at the time of discussion then no agreement was made and will come back to December 16 meeting

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (STANDING ITEM)

- No matters arising

12. PROPOSED DATES/TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Next meeting is set for 5.00pm on the 8th December 2016

Proposed Future Dates

Thursday 16th March 2017

Thursday 11th May 2017

Thursday 13th July 2017

- All 5.00pm start

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business