

Schools Forum Meeting Minutes - DRAFT - held on the 12 May 2016 at The Avenue

PRESENT

Peter Kayes	Governor, Redlands - CHAIR
Charles Clare	Headteacher, Geoffrey Fields Junior
Lisa Bedlow	Headteacher, Caversham and Newbridge nurseries
Cathy Doberska	Headteacher, New Christchurch
Isabelle Sandy	School Business Manager, Kendrick
Justine McMinn	Headteacher, EP Collier
Viv Angus	Headteacher, Reading Girls School
Sue Bourne	Headteacher, The Avenue
Joan Boyd	NUT
Mandy Wilton	Cranbury College
Phil Davies	Prospect School
Nicola Maytum	JMA

RBC

Steven Davies	Finance
Richard Blackmore	Head of Education
Alan Cross	Chief Finance officer

APOLOGIES

John Cosgrove	Headteacher, Christ the King (RC) School
Yvonne Jackson	Headteacher, Wilson School
Eileen McElligott	Governor, English Martyrs
John Wood	Transformation Officer
Russell Dyer	Corporate Finance Business Partner
Chris Stevens	SEN

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- Welcome
- Apologies noted

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th March 2016

- Page 3 - Typo should be Forum not Formula

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

- No matters arising

4. 2015/16 DSG PROVISIONAL OUTTURN

Presented by: SD

- 1.1 million £ deficit; Early Years money is already committed so overspend is more than projected (more like £2.1 million)
- The High Cost Block was more than originally forecasted

- Early Years came out as roughly what was predicted; need to determine what Early Years required for 2 year old funding and the 30 hour new entitlement
- 6.1 – view of how much money left over after recoupment
- Schools Budget – hopefully all Bursor's will know the budget should be in to the RBC Finance by 20th May 2016
- Growth Fund – there has been a few discussions that the funding is not enough (example given around some schools have building work being done); Suggestion for a working group and to look at best practise out there as part of this working group
- Detail given around the National School Funding Formula; finance have discussed and thought it is not worth while sending a response this time around and will respond on the 2nd consultation
- Appendix 1 – split down the variances and which block they are in to help understand the outturn

Outcomes

2.2 – To approve the carry forward of £1.1 million

- School Forum members approve this to be carried forward

2.4 – request for Working Group

- CC will liaise at the Primary Head's meeting to see if there is a volunteer and if not CC will volunteer for this
- Secondary volunteer (NM to liaise with colleague)
- 3 x members needed

5. SCHOOLS PROVISIONAL BALANCES 2015/16

Presented by SD

- Provisional school 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
- What happens to the excesses? If a school goes to an academy with excess then they keep this funding however if they are in deficit going to academy then the LA will be funding this
- **Action:** SD to look into the multi-academy trust absorbing the deficit when this applies as discussed in today's forum

Outcomes

- Forum agreed for the for the LA to review the balances

6. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK WORKING UPDATE (VERBAL)

Apologies from John Wood

- John Wood is currently looking at quite a wide range which should yield some savings
- Develop a strategy to get the High Needs Block figures down
- Last year there were a number of strategies introduced to cut costs, some of which have been put in the place but are long term strategies
- This issue is a long term issue

- There has been an increase in demand in the High Need Blocks and this is not unique to Reading
- The High Needs Block has not been increased by Government despite the increasing the needs

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (STANDING ITEM)

- Reminder if an item needs to come to forum to contact RD, PK or SD
- Apologies from Peter Kayes for next meeting

8. PROPOSED DATES/TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Next meeting is set for 5.00pm on the 14th July 2016 (apologies from Peter Kayes noted)
- Colleagues to check clashes on the 13th October 2016 and feedback at next forum

Proposed Future Dates

Thursday 13th October 2016
Thursday 8th December 2016
Thursday 12th January 2017
Thursday 16th March 2017
Thursday 11th May 2017
Thursday 13th July 2017

- All 5.00pm start

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business