

SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 **at 1.00 pm at Whitmore High School**

Members Present: Sue Hammond – Headteacher, Whitmore High School (CHAIR)
Anna Smakowska – Headteacher, Woodlands School
Pam Virdee – Headteacher, Longfield School (VICE CHAIR)
Geraldine Higgins – Headteacher, Sacred Heart Language College
Patrick O'Dwyer – Div. Director Education Services (Special Needs Services)
Rebecca Hastings – Headteacher, Cedars Manor School
Louise Browning – Headteacher, Norbury Primary School
Paul Gamble – Headteacher, Harrow High School
Christine Robson – Portfolio Holder, Young People & Schools
Mike Baumring - Headteacher, Kenmore Park Junior School
Rutinder Mahil-Pooni – Headteacher, Kenmore Park Infant School
Sue Maguire – Headteacher, Hatch End High School
Claudia Calogero – Governor, Hillview Nursery School
Keven Bartle – Headteacher, Canons High School
David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School
Anne Monahan – Headteacher, St Anselm's Primary School
PK Maselino – Headteacher, The Helix

Officers in Attendance: Jo Frost - Finance Business Partner

SH opened the meeting.

1. Apologies and Order of the Agenda

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Sarbdip Noonan – Principal, Stanmore College
Paul Hewitt – Interim Corporate Director People Services
Nigel Hewett - AHGB Representative
Ian Noutch – Academy High School Finance Manager
Jo Daswani – Headteacher, Whitchurch Primary School

The order of the agenda was agreed.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 3 July 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2018 were agreed as an accurate record

3. Matters Arising

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Sue Hammond was nominated and elected as Chair for the next academic year.
Pam Virdee was nominated and elected as Vice Chair for the next academic year.

- b. POD provided an update on the banding matrix and explained that the LA plans to consult in Autumn and make a decision in Spring and is seeking clarification from the ESFA in relation to timescales for implementation.
- c. In relation to a previous action about the Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children, POD advised that he has written to both primary and secondary execs and had responses from both phases
- d. The action in relation to a report on PAN and primary numbers is on today's agenda
- e. SM enquired as to whether there had been any further announcements about the teachers' pay grant. There was a consensus that there had not been any further announcements.

4. 2019-20 Budget Setting and Funding Formula Review

JF introduced the report which set out the changes to the funding arrangements for 2018-19 and a proposed consultation document.

JF gave an overview of the current position for 2018-19 and explained there would be minimal changes to the funding formula in 2019-20.

JF explained that the LA would be consulting on a request to transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

SH advised that Schools Forum had been clear this would be agreed for one year only to allow the LA to progress the strategy.

JF explained that as this is an option for the LA to help to manage the pressure. The LA has to do its due diligence and request this transfer as part of the consultation as this is a mechanism afforded to the LA as part of the funding regulations.

POD explained that there has been progress on the banding matrix and there is currently an external review of services and demand underway. The LA continues to work with the West London Alliance and the SEND strategy is progressing.

AS queried what it would mean for high needs children if this wasn't agreed

PG queried what the LA would do if Schools Forum did not agree to the transfer. JF explained that the LA may have to report a deficit as other LAs have done.

JF explained that any decision to cut or change service provision would be subject to consultation.

Schools Forum reviewed the proposed consultation document and broke into small groups to discuss.

Q1 in relation to MFG – Schools Forum requested that three options be given -1.5% 0% and +0.5% and that indicative budgets based on these three scenarios be calculated. A health warning should also be given with the indicative budgets so that schools do not plan for future years on these numbers and that the final MFG will be subject to affordability.

Q2 in relation to the growth fund – Schools Forum committed to maintaining the current per class growth fund allocation so that schools that had already agreed to expand did not have their funding changed. If the growth fund allocation through the new funding formula does not provide the same

level of funding then this would be found within the remainder of the Schools Block. It was, therefore, agreed that there was no need to consult on this question and it should be removed.

Q3 in relation to the High Needs Block Transfer – Schools Forum requested that more narrative be provided in the consultation document about the services and provision funded by the High Needs Block. There were some changes to the wording which will be reflected in the final consultation document.

Q4 in relation to the place funding for EHCPs – there were some changes to the wording which will be reflected in the final consultation document.

It was agreed that JF would update the consultation document and this would be reviewed by SH before clearing. The aim is to start the consultation on Friday 21st September and for it to run for four weeks to Friday 19th October.

ACTION JF/SH

Schools Forum thanked JF for the report.

5. School Place Planning and Admissions

POD introduced the report which set out the position for reception place planning as of September 2018.

POD explained that the LA is working with a number of schools to informally reduce the plans where they are under numbers. There will be a consultation for formally reducing PANs from 2020.

SH reminded Schools Forum that it is important leading up to the census date in October that schools admit any pupils they are offered in order that maximum funding is generated for the borough. POD also stated that during the final two weeks the Admissions Service will be prioritizing finding places in borough for pupils without a school or currently placed out of borough, who wish to move in, rather than moving pupils around within Harrow schools.

Any Other Business

None

Next Meeting and Agenda Items

The next meeting will take place on 16 October 2018 at 1pm at Whitmore High School.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm