

SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 2 June 2020 **at 1.00 pm via Zoom**

Members Present:

Sue Hammond – Headteacher, Whitmore High School (CHAIR)
Pam Virdee – Headteacher, Longfield School (VICE CHAIR)
Rebecca Hastings – Headteacher, Cedars Manor School
Patrick O'Dwyer – Div. Director Education Services (Special Needs Services)
Simon Arnell – Principal, Avanti House Secondary School
Anna Smakowska – Headteacher, Woodlands School

David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School
Christine Robson – Portfolio Holder, Young People & Schools
Rutinder Mahil-Pooni – Headteacher, Kenmore Park Infant School
Mike Baumring – Headteacher, Kenmore Park Junior School
Jacky Halpin – Headteacher, Hillview Nursery School
Sue Maguire – Headteacher, Hatch End High School
Clare Tarling – Finance Director, Pinner High School
Paul Gamble – Headteacher, Harrow High School

Officers in Attendance:

Jo Frost - Finance Business Partner
Carole Wells – SEND Programme Manager

SH opened the meeting.

1. Apologies and Order of the Agenda

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Jo Daswani – Headteacher, Whitchurch Primary School
Louise Browning – Headteacher, Norbury School
Anne Monahan – Headteacher, St Anselm's School

2. The order of the agenda was agreed.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Trade Union Duties funding for academies

The LA will be consulting with academies and free schools in the first half of the Autumn Term.

ACTION POD

4. DSG Budget Outturn 2019-20

JF introduced the report which set out the final outturn position on the DSG for 2019-20. Schools Forum noted the overall position on the DSG and the detail presented against each of the Blocks.

Schools Forum noted the final outturn position in relation to the contingency and agreed the final proposal of commitments against the contingency for 2020-21.

5. DSG Deficit Recovery Plan

JF introduced the report which set out the DSG High Needs Deficit Recovery Plan for 2020-23.

CW set out the underlying pressures in relation to the HNB and the progress on the SEND Strategy which is underpins the DRP.

Schools Forum noted the projected financial position of the High Needs Block and noted that the DRP does not bring the projected DSG deficit back into balance.

There were a few comments regarding the need for a new special free school in the borough. CW agreed that this is part of the strategy but there are currently no government programmes open to achieve this. In addition, CW explained that the SEND strategy could not be delivered only through the increase of special school provision and that increasing special provision in mainstream schools is also key in order that harrow special schools can take more complex children.

Schools Forum recommended that the LA, using the projection modelling and the data on out borough placements, carry out a further piece of work to see if the proposal of a new special school would be cost effective and bring the deficit back into balance.

JF explained that under normal circumstances the DRP would have to be signed off by the LA and submitted to the DfE by 30 June however this deadline has been removed this year but the DfE could ask for the DRP in the future.

Schools Forum agreed that it was helpful to see all the information and projections presented in one place.

The DRP is an ongoing plan and will be brought back to Schools Forum at a future date.

Any Other Business

Schools Forum thanked the following members who are stepping down from Schools Forum this term:

Anna Smakowska
Anne Monahan
Pam Virdee

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.15pm

The next meeting will take place on 15 September via Zoom