

SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020 **at 1.00 pm via Zoom**

Members Present: Sue Hammond – Headteacher, Whitmore High School (CHAIR)
Louise Browning – Headteacher, Norbury School (VICE CHAIR)
Rebecca Hastings – Headteacher, Cedars Manor School
Patrick O'Dwyer – Divisional Director Education Services
Simon Arnell – Principal, Avanti House Secondary School
Geraldine Higgins – Headteacher, Sacred Heart Language College
Pauline Cahillane – Deputy Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary 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
Nigel Hewett – AHGB
Jo Daswani – Headteacher, Whitchurch Primary School
Steven Deanus – Headteacher, Roxeth Primary School
Nick Waldron – Headteacher, Pinner Park Primary School
Chris Briggs – Headteacher, St Joseph's Primary School

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:

David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School (represented by Pauline Cahillane)
Christine Robson – Portfolio Holder, Young People & Schools

2 Welcomes

Schools Forum welcomed three new members

Steven Deanus – Headteacher, Roxeth School
Nick Waldron – Headteacher, Pinner Park Primary School
Chris Briggs – Headteacher, St Joseph's Primary School

The order of the agenda was agreed.

2 Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Sue Hammond was nominated and seconded for the role of Chair
Lou Browning was nominated and seconded for the role of Vice Chair

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

4 Matters Arising

Trade Union Duties funding for academies

JF advised Schools Forum that the consultation with academies and free schools had opened on 14 September 2020.

5 DSG Budget Setting 2021-22

JF introduced the report which set out the changes to the 2021-22 School Funding Formula.

A number of concerns were raised about the TPG and TPECG being rolled into funding formula baseline. JF explained that the funding would only relate to September 2018 and 2019 pay increases and any further increased for September 2020 and beyond would not be reflected in the funding.

There was a discussion about the Minimum Funding Guarantee which the LA is required to consult on. However, JF explained that the level of MFG could be dependent on the affordability of the overall formula and the impact of having to set last year's MFG at +4.24% is not yet currently known. JF explained that in the worst-case scenario if the MFG is not affordable at even the lowest level +0.5% then gainers in the formula would have to be capped.

However, it is still appropriate to consult all schools about the principle of setting the MFG. it was agreed that schools should be consulted as to whether they would want to set the maximum MFG subject to affordability.

In respect of the High Needs Block JF explained that there is additional funding in the HNB but that this is still lower than the estimated growth in funding required.

The DSG Deficit Recovery Plan was reviewed by Schools Forum in June 2020. Schools Forum requested that an update on this be brought back to the next meeting.

ACTION POD

6 Harrow Scheme for Financing Schools

JF introduced the report which set out the changes proposed to the Harrow Scheme For Financing Schools affecting maintained schools only. JF explained that the changes are either directed or suggested and the LA is proposing that all suggested changes are adopted.

It was agreed that there would be a short consultation with maintained schools before half term and the LA would feed back at the next meeting before formally agreeing any changes.

ACTION JF

7 Any Other Business

Next Schools Forum Meeting

The next meeting is schedule for October 2020 however it is proposed that this meeting is not required and the next meeting will be on 17 November 2020

Early Years SEND Consultation

JF explained that the LA would shortly be carrying out a consultation with Early Years providers in relation to top up funding for children with EHCPs. The consultation proposes that the hourly rate will increase from £8.38 to £10.90 in line with the National Minimum Wage.

Schools Census October 2020

SH reminded colleagues the importance of ensuring that all pupils wanting a school place in Harrow are on role for census day so that funding comes into Harrow and to work with Admissions to support this.

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.05pm

The next meeting will take place on 17 November 2020