

SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 **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
Geraldine Higgins – Headteacher, Sacred Heart Language College
David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School
Mike Baumring – Headteacher, Kenmore Park Junior School
Sue Maguire – Headteacher, Hatch End High School
Steven Deanus – Headteacher, Roxeth Primary School
Nick Waldron – Headteacher, Pinner Park Primary School
Chris Briggs – Headteacher, St Joseph's Primary School
Councillor Christine Robson – Portfolio Holder Young People & Schools

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:

Clare Tarling – Finance Director, Pinner High School

The order of the agenda was agreed.

2 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2020 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising

None

4 DSG Budget Setting 2021-22

JF introduced the report which set out the 2020-21 DSG allocation and 2020-21 proposed school budgets.

JF set out the position on the overall DSG allocation across all blocks and the main changes between years for the Schools Block.

Growth Fund

JF explained the distribution of funding in the growth fund. JF explained that the value in the growth fund had been calculated based on 4FE possible shortfall from September 2021 at KS3 basic entitlement per pupil plus some allocation for resources. There was a discussion about the specific

criteria for applying the secondary growth funding and whether it will be driven by individual pupil growth or whether there would need to be a minimum number of pupils in order to access funding.

LB expressed concern about in year growth and the impact that COVID-19 is having on pupil mobility. LB stated that at her school there are an additional 80 children on role since the October 2020 census. RH and SD agreed that there was a similar concern in their schools.

SH suggested that the JF and SH have a discussion outside of the meeting and present proposals at a future meeting.

ACTION JF/SH

Contingency

JF explained that at its previous meeting Schools Forum agreed to allocate £100k from the contingency to secondary expansions however there was capacity in the overall schools block to fully allocate secondary growth funding without needing to draw on the contingency. JF explained that therefore this £100k had been added to the £532k that had been earmarked to the 2021-22 schools funding formula taking the total allocation to £632k. Schools Forum agreed this approach.

Schools Forum discussed the allocation the funding in the contingency allocated to the newly created COVID Support Fund. It was once again agreed that the criteria for distributing this funding would be revisited in May when the year end position for maintained schools (and projected for academies) would be clearer.

Meeting outcomes

Schools Forum

- Noted the allocation of the DSG
- Agreed the growth fund
- Noted the overall proposed funding distribution at Appendices A, B & C
- Noted the MFG has been set at 2%
- Noted the High Needs Block
- Noted the Early Years Block
- Noted the other sources funding

5 Any Other Business

None

Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 2.05pm

The next meeting will take place on 9 March 2021.