



## **SCHOOLS' FORUM**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2024** **at 1.00 pm via MS Teams**

**Members Present:** Nick Waldron – Headteacher, Pinner Park Primary School (VICE CHAIR)  
Patrick O'Dwyer – Director of Education  
Paul Gamble – Headteacher Harrow High School  
Steven Deanus - Headteacher-Roxeth Primary School)  
Michael Baumring - Headteacher-Kenmore Park Junior School  
Louise Browning – Headteacher, Norbury School  
David O'Farrell – Headteacher, St Bernadette's Primary School  
PK Maselino – Headteacher, The Helix  
Caroline Day-Lewis – Headteacher, Woodlands Special School  
Rashid Benserghin (Headteacher- Roxbourne Primary School)  
James Rebbitt - Headteacher – Whitmore High School  
Chris Briggs - Headteacher St Joseph's Primary School  
Fiona Hopkins- Headteacher, Heathlands School

**Officers in Attendance:** Pat Harvey – Interim Finance Business Partner and Clerk  
Catherine Milmine – SEN Assessment and Review Service Manager

***Clerk (PH) opened the meeting after confirming apologies from CHAIR (SH) and VICE CHAIR (NW) chaired the meeting.***

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ORDER OF AGENDA</u></b>  1.1 Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sash Hamidi – Exec Headteacher, The Pegasus Partnership Trust (CHAIR)</li> <li>• Cllr Hitesh Karia (Portfolio Holder)</li> <li>• Parmjit Chahal – Strategic Director of Children's Services</li> <li>• Sarah Marriott – Headteacher, Pinner Wood Primary</li> <li>• Andrew Parkin – Principal, St Dominic's College</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</u></b>  2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record with amendment of James Rebbitt – Headteacher, Whitmore High School in attendance that replaced previous headteacher, Sue Hammond as cited on the agenda. <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Noted</b></div>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b>  3.1 Vote for Chair	

POD updated the meeting that SH had expressed his wishes to not be re-elected as CHAIR for the new academic year. Paul Gamble (PH) – Headteacher, Harrow High School was nominated and seconded by LB as Chair of Schools' Forum for new academic year.

### 3.2 Vote for Vice Chair

Nick Waldron (NW) agreed to be re-elected as Vice Chair and seconded by LB.

### 3.3 Schools' Forum Pre-meetings

It was agreed for Schools' Forum pre-meets with Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of Education and LA Officers (if applicable to discuss agenda reports) to be arranged for future Schools' Forum meetings, also PH (Clerk) to send future Schools' Forum meeting dates to members via Microsoft teams.

Action PH

### 3.4 Update on previous actions

No.	Date of Meeting	Item No	Action	Owner
1	7 June 2024	Item 3.1	<b>Membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academy Headteacher</li> <li>PVI representative</li> <li>2 Governor vacancies</li> </ul> PH (Clerk) to contact specific sector of colleagues for interest(s) in joining Schools' Forum	Clerk (PH)

## 4.0

### DSG UPDATE 2024-25

4.1 PH presented the paper DSG Update 2024-25 to members and reported current pressure is in High Needs Block (HNB) reporting in-year £9.461m pressure and previous cumulative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) pressure of £2.560m, total £12.041m forecast based upon quarter 2 reporting.

Ongoing HNB pressure areas:

- Independent & Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) Provision budget where spend is expected to be £2.86m higher than in 2023-24, an increase of 28%.
- Mainstream school and academies Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) forecast growth in children and young people having an EHCP that requires additional funding in support of their plan, an additional £2.93m, 33% increase.
- Forecast on new banding (Band F) introduced in 2024-25 in support of children attending a mainstream school with an EHCP but requiring a specialist place.
- ARMS places to be full 2024-25.
- Post16 and FE Colleges data and actual 'take-up' in numbers of places forecast.
- HNB fee increases in provision for both INMSS and Out of Borough (OOB)

## DSG Deficit and Earmarked Contingency 2024-25

Schools' Forum commitments previously agreed:

1. Growth fund £0.441m
  2. Reducing Exclusions £0.230m
  3. Backfill loss of SIMB grant (year 2) £0.180m
- Total £0.851m agreed.**

**Recommendation:** Schools Forum were requested:

- To discuss and comment on the latest DSG forecast for 2024-25.
- Note the forecast DSG outturn position for 2024/25.

**Noted**

### 4.2 Discussions

4.2.1 Uncommitted £0.579m DSG contingency, Vice-Chair (NW) suggested to be discussed once DSG 2025-26 allocations were published.

4.2.2 PG enquired if the DSG deficit is a forecast up until 31 March 2025. PH confirmed forecast is based upon known data within the HNB at quarter 1 and expenditure/spend forecasted to yearend, i.e. 31 March 2025 but further updates will be reported to Schools' Forum on the DSG deficit.

4.2.3 NW enquired when will interventions from the DfE happen due to DSG Deficit of £12m? PH and POD updated on DfE Safety Valve and Delivering Best Value (DBV) programs, but local SEND Strategy is in support of identified SEN pressures within Harrow and development of ARMS/units in schools plus development and approval of a new Special Free School in Harrow.

4.2.4 MB commented that a deficit is still in place and will continue to grow due to pressures. PH updated with good news within the local authority of support in schools and development of SEND Strategy, all positive strategies. POD advised members that the Safety Valve Program is now closed with several local authorities still reporting on this to the ESFA/DfE.

4.2.5 SD enquired on details of schools receiving the new band F funding and names of schools.

**Action PH/CM**

4.2.6 Chair (PG) and Vice-Chair (NW) to review details and publication of school's data prior to Schools' Forum meeting on 'Band F' details.

**Action SF pre-meet**

4.2.7 DOF enquired if the DSG contingency should be used to off-set the forecast deficit. PH commented that the c£12m is a forecast based upon Q1 reporting and Schools' Forum have already agreed priorities for 2024-25 and being Strategic, should review this again once final forecast/outturn is reported.

4.2.8 LB suggested earmarked funding agreed from DSG contingency £0.230m named in main report as previous title as *Boys of Black Caribbean Heritage Project* to be renamed as *Reducing Exclusions*. This was unanimously agreed and request for LB to update Schools' Forum of progress work undertaken at Hatch-End. LB to provide progress update report to next Schools' Forum.

**Action LB**

	4.2.9 PKM questioned on the legitimacy for inclusion title, and Helix involvement. POD also enquired on the decision on funding because of Whitefriars involvement. FH replied that they supported on this provision.																					
5.0	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>5.1 DOF updated the meeting with a big push in the Borough led by heads working with local MPs to try and get Harrow Inner London budget status. This is needed in support of recruitment and retention purposes. There is currently a review happening. A meeting 11 October at 2pm St Bernadette's.</p> <p>5.2 Schools' Forum wished to note special thanks to POD for his work, support and insight to schools and best wishes on his retirement. <b>Noted</b></p> <p>5.3 MB requested if the pPortfolio Holder could be encouraged to attend Schools' Forum if possible.</p> <p><b>Meeting ended 1.49pm</b></p>																					
6.0	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting(s)</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday 5 November 2024 Tuesday 14 January 2025 Tuesday 11 March 2025 Tuesday 10 June 2025</p>																					
7.0	<p><b><u>Action Log</u></b></p> <table><tr><th>No.</th><th>Date of Meeting</th><th>Item No</th><th>Action</th><th>Owner</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>7 June 2024</td><td>Item 3.1</td><td><p><b><u>Membership</u></b></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academy Headteacher</li><li>PVI representative</li><li>2 Governor vacancies</li></ul><p>PH (Clerk) to contact specific sector of colleagues for interest(s) in joining Schools' Forum</p></td><td>Clerk (PH)</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>10 September 2024</td><td>Item 3.3</td><td><p><b><u>Schools' Forum pre-meet</u></b></p><p>Agreed pre-meets with Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of Education, Finance Business Partner, and LA officers (if applicable) before Schools' Forum meetings</p></td><td>PH</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>10 September 2024</td><td>Item 3.3</td><td><p><b><u>Schools' Forum meetings</u></b></p><p>Future meetings to be scheduled via Microsoft teams for academic year</p></td><td>Clerk (PH)</td></tr></table>	No.	Date of Meeting	Item No	Action	Owner	1	7 June 2024	Item 3.1	<p><b><u>Membership</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academy Headteacher</li><li>PVI representative</li><li>2 Governor vacancies</li></ul> <p>PH (Clerk) to contact specific sector of colleagues for interest(s) in joining Schools' Forum</p>	Clerk (PH)	2	10 September 2024	Item 3.3	<p><b><u>Schools' Forum pre-meet</u></b></p> <p>Agreed pre-meets with Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of Education, Finance Business Partner, and LA officers (if applicable) before Schools' Forum meetings</p>	PH	3	10 September 2024	Item 3.3	<p><b><u>Schools' Forum meetings</u></b></p> <p>Future meetings to be scheduled via Microsoft teams for academic year</p>	Clerk (PH)	
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	4	10 September 2024	Item 4.2.5	<b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Details of schools receiving the new band F funding and names of schools in 2024-25	PH/CM	
	5	10 September 2024	Item 4.2.5	<b><u>Band F payments.</u></b> Chair and Vice-Chair of Schools' Forum to review data analysis prior to publication in Schools Forum report.	Chair (PG) and Vice-Chair (NW)	
	6	10 September 2024	Item 4.2.8	<b><u>Reducing Exclusions project</u></b> LB to update Schools' Forum of progress on project funded from DSG contingency.	LB	