

Walsall Council Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 4.00 pm

Digital Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Schools Forum Members Present:

Mr M. Vlahakis	Primary Head Teacher, Cadmus Family of schools
Mrs C. Draper	Primary Head Teacher, Short Heath Federation
Mrs A. Arnold	Primary Head Teacher, Delves Infant School
Mrs J. Garratt	Primary Head Teacher, Walsall Wood
Mr A. Seager	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Bloxwich Academy
Mrs N. Boys	Primary Academy Head Teacher, Lodge Farm
M. Moody	Primary Academy Representative, Goldsmiths and Rivers Academies
Mr W. Downie	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Streetly Academy
Mrs L. Foster	Primary Governor, Short Heath Federation
Mr I. Baker	Secondary Academy Governor, Grace Academy
Mrs C. Fraser	Special School Head Teacher, Castle Business and Enterprise College
Mr C. Bury	Principal, The Ladder School, Alternative Provision
Ms M. Turley	Nursery Head Teacher, Ogley Hay Nursery
Mr T. Hopkins	PVI Representative

Officers Present:

Mrs S. Kelly – Director of Access and Inclusion
Mr R. Walley – Technical Accounting, Treasury Management & Education Finance Manager
Mr L. Haynes – Head of Finance – Technical & Transactional
Mr N. Picken – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mr R Thomas – Head of Inclusion
Ms J Nash - SEND
Ms L. Meredith – Finance Business Partner

Observers Present: S. Guy (National Education Union)

		Action
1. 17.01.23	Welcome Mr Seager chaired the meeting at the request of Mr Vlahakis. In doing so, he suggested that members raise the issue of attendance at their respective forums to ensure that appointees were still in a position to commit to the role.	

	<p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS) webpage.</p> <p>A roll call was taken of those members present who confirmed they could both see and hear the proceedings.</p>	
<p>2. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>An apology for absence had been received from Mr Davies, Mr Prichard Jones.</p>	Noted
<p>3. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<p>4. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13th December 2022</p> <p>None.</p>	Noted
<p>5. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Late Item/s (urgent) to be introduced by the Chair</p> <p>It was reported that correspondence had been sent to the Chair of Primary Forum in relation to the voting process and other governance related issues.</p>	Noted
<p>6. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>7. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Final Mainstream Funding Formula 2023/24</p> <p>A report was submitted: -</p> <p>(See annexed)</p> <p>The Chair referred to the recommendations and advised that he was aware that the latter recommendation (to recommend the formula to the Director of Children's Services, the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, and the ESFA) was not required as the proposal was approved by Cabinet and will be implemented.</p>	

	<p>As such, Schools Forum were asked to note the overall level of dedicated schools grant and note the funding factor values for 2023/24.</p> <p>Mr Vlahakis confirmed that there had been an in-depth discussion at the previous meeting and highlighted that Cabinet had supported the recommendation from Schools Forum.</p> <p>The Finance Manager -Technical & Transactional, concurred and referred Forum Members to paragraph 4.6 of the report. He stated that whilst all factors were initially moved 50% closer to NFF rates, as endorsed by Schools Forum and approved by Cabinet in December 2022, this did not fully allocate all funding that was available within the Schools Block (as is required in the regulations). As such two additional changes were required, to ensure that the remaining funding is allocated to every school</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the overall level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding that will be received for 2023/24 be noted; and 2. The funding factor values for 2023/24, which ensure that allocations to mainstream schools via the local funding formula are both affordable within the funding that is available, be noted. 	
<p>8.</p> <p>17.1.23</p>	<p>Central Expenditure Budgets 2023/24</p> <p>A report was submitted: -</p> <p>(See annexed)</p> <p>The Director of Access and Inclusion updated Forum on the Local Authority School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) Grant. It was explained that the vote not to de-delegate the remaining 50% of the Lamb grant back to the Local Authority to meet its statutory duties in relation to school improvement guidance had been referred to the Secretary of State who had overturned the decision and therefore the de-delegated funds which were requested will now be de-delegated back to the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty.</p> <p>Mr Vlahakis referred to establishing a Working Group to discuss how to move forwards in future with the LAMB grant. The Director of Access and Inclusion confirmed that all schools would need to be involved to drive it forward as schools would have 50% of the funding. They would need to identify how to spend that money to improve outcomes for children. The Local</p>	

	<p>Authority would offer to be a part of the group and support its development.</p> <p>Resolved (by roll call)</p> <p>That Schools Forum approve tables 1 and 2 as set out to form the basis for central expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year.</p>	
<p>8. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>School Improvement De Delegation Letter</p> <p>This had been addressed during discussion on the Central Expenditure Budgets.</p>	
<p>9. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>A discussion was held in relation to SEND updates.</p> <p>The Director of Access and Inclusion confirmed that Schools Forum was a finance rather than operational forum. However, an update would be provided at the next meeting during the Walsall Learning Alliance item. It was suggested that members of the SEND team could attend the WASH and PNS to discuss developments and improvements in addition to updates at the next virtual heads session.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the following item be added to the Forward Plan: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of membership; and 2. That the Forward Plan be noted. 	<p>SK to arrange.</p> <p>Added to June, 2023</p>
<p>10. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Late Items</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>11. 17.1.23</p>	<p>Date and Time of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 4.00pm</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.47 pm.

Signed

Date: