

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 11th June, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. M. Vlahakis (Chairman)
Mrs. M. Sheehy
Mr. G. Thornton
Mr. G. Crowther
Dame M. Brennan
Mr. N. Smith
Mrs. J. Ward
Mr. E. Gee
Mrs. M. Yates
Mrs. M. Woodcock
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. B. Powell
Mr. M. Ison
Mr. A. Orlik
Mr. J. Murray
Mr. R. Bragger/Mr. D. Blackwell

In Attendance:- Mr. D. Mortiboys - Walsall MBC
Mr. S. Flynn - Walsall MBC
Ms. L. Hughes - Walsall MBC
Ms. D. Morris - Walsall MBC

		Action
1. 11.6.13	Election of Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the year The Forum agreed to defer this item to the September, 2013 meeting.	
2. 11.6.13	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. C. Draper and Mr. J.P. Clarke. Mr. R. Bragger advised the Forum that he would leave the meeting early and his substitute, Mr. Blackwell, would attend.	

<p>3. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Minutes - 26th March, 2013</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<p>4. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
<p>5. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>6. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>The Forum noted that there were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>7. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Premature Retirement Update</p> <p>Mr. Crowther informed the Forum that the position regarding premature retirements had not changed; there was no legal necessity for the enhancement of premature early retirement to be offered to teaching staff in the 55 years plus category. The main issue around this was the control of the decision making process, particularly in view of the current financial climate.</p> <p>Mrs Sheehy referred to costings that she had been given showing enhancement for retirement at 55 and at 58 with the difference being some £60,000 which the school would need to find.</p> <p>Ms. Hughes confirmed that advice had been sought from Legal Services regarding the process which would require consultation with the Unions, consideration by Appointments Board and final decision by Council.</p>	

	<p>Mr. Bragger informed the Forum that the premature retirements related to those selected for redundancy, this constituted a very small number of teachers but the issue was of particular concern to smaller schools. With regard to consultation, Mr. Bragger was of the view that this matter should be discussed at JNC and include more Headteacher involvement.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the present position with regard to premature retirement through redundancy be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Schools Funding Formula</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to new rules that had been introduced by the Education Funding Agency which would be circulated to Members at the next meeting. The rules ensured that all schools receive a certain level of funding at Key Stages 3, 4, primary AWP and funding per pupil. Walsall's schools funding formula met all the criteria.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys stated that the schools formula could now only allocate a lump sum of £175,000, which would be a reduction of £25,000 from that previously agreed.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that Graph 5 included in the report took into account all the factors and should be used as a key overview graph; in view of the changes, he suggested that a Working Group be set up to carry out a modelling exercise of the recent changes.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report be noted;</p> <p>(2) That Schools Forum note that further analysis of funding formulae was available on request;</p> <p>(3) That the Schools Formula Working Group meet to model the funding formula changes, the membership to be as follows:-</p>	

	<p>Max Vlahakis Michelle Sheehy Mike Ison Gary Thornton</p> <p>That a date for the meeting of the Working Group would be advised to Members in due course;</p> <p>(4) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.</p>	
<p>9. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Walsall Learning Consortium</p> <p>Mr. Thornton gave a brief outline of the Walsall Learning consortium and acknowledged the value to be gained from working with colleagues on key areas to drive forward attainment and achievement at his own and other schools. The Consortium would allow collaboration on key issues; a Working Group had been established with a direction of travel towards executive body making decisions on opportunities for Headteachers and schools as well as networking and leadership.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the update on the Walsall Learning Consortium be noted.</p>	
<p>10. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Request from Walsall Learning Consortium Headteachers Working Group to explore Funding Options</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Crowther confirmed that this matter had been discussed at Walsall Association of Secondary Headteachers (WASH) meeting and it had appeared that the image and vision of the Consortium almost mirrored arrangements already in place in the Secondary phase. The view amongst Headteachers was that a strong Primary Forum and strong Secondary Forum was already in existence but there seemed to be a void between the two that would need addressing in order to strengthen liaison between the two phases. It was</p>	

	<p>the view that the Learning Consortium might be a suitable vehicle to achieve that; but that a more suitable process to achieve collaborative development would be by way of a 'buy in' service.</p> <p>Mr. Flynn referred to the Primary/Secondary gap and that the Learning Consortium would try to address this and it would be driven by Headteachers. Funding would be earmarked to be used for schools and could include commissioning speakers, releasing teachers to enable them to attend sessions and to use advanced skilled teachers. It would provide an opportunity to build on what already existed and enable some of the weaker clusters to learn from the stronger clusters thus enabling more effectiveness.</p> <p>With regard to funding, Mr. Flynn stated that the DSG monies, together with a contribution from the Local Authority, could be used and the total funding would be controlled by the Learning Consortium.</p> <p>After discussion it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Forum note that there were discussions about a Walsall Learning Consortium taking place and Headteachers were key to driving the developments forward and Schools Forum Members were actively involved;</p> <p>(2) That the funding options available be noted.</p>	
<p>11. 11.6.13</p>	<p>2012/13 DSG Surplus</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys outlined the content of the report and drew Members' attention to the options available.</p> <p>Ms. Hughes highlighted the content of Paragraph 9.2 of the report and the design to support schools in their work and the challenges they faced. It would be necessary to provide a business case in respect of the project.</p>	

	<p>Members discussed the options included in the report and it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That a Sub-Group be established consisting of the following Members to discuss the options for the disbursement of the DSG surplus 2012/13 and that a report be submitted to a special meeting of the Forum to be held on 9th July, 2013 at Blakenall Village Centre:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gary Crowther Gary Thornton Michelle Sheehy Max Vlahakis</p>	
<p>12. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Annual Report of Schools Forum for the period 12th June, 2012 to 26th March, 2013</p> <p>The Annual Report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Annual Report of Schools Forum for the period 12th June, 2012 to 26th March, 2013 be noted.</p>	
<p>13. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that it was necessary to update the membership and asked if a Member of the Forum would take part in this process.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forum note the necessity to update its membership and that the Chairman (Mr. Vlahakis) take part in that process.</p>	
<p>14. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be agreed, subject to the inclusion of the special meeting to be held on 9th July, 2013, and an item to be included “Early Years Funding Formula for 2 year olds”.</p>	
<p>15. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p>16. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence received.</p>	
<p>17. 11.6.13</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 9th July, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.