

Walsall Council Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 16 January, 2024 at 4.00 pm

Digital Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Schools Forum Members Present:

Mr M. Vlahakis	Primary Maintained Head Teacher, Cadmus Family of schools
Mrs C. Draper	Primary Maintained Head Teacher, Short Heath Federation
Mrs A. Arnold	Primary Head Teacher, Delves Infant School
Mrs D. Probert	Primary Maintained Head Teacher, Watling Street
Mr S. Davies	Primary Maintained Head Teacher, Christ Church CE (C) JMI School
Mr M. Moody	Primary Academy Representative, Goldsmiths and Rivers Academies
Mr J. Ludlow	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Joseph Leckie Academy
Mr D. Smith	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Blue Coat Academy
Mr W. Downie	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Streetly Academy
Mrs E. Phillips	Special School, Phoenix Academy
Ms M. Turley	Nursery Head Teacher, Ogley Hay Nursery
Mr C. Bury	Principal, The Ladder School, Alternative Provision

Officers Present:

R. Walley -Finance Manager– Technical Accounting, Treasury Management and Education Finance
L. Meredith – Lead Accountant, Education
T. Collier – Financial Manager, Children’s & Education Services
R Thomas – Head of Access
N. Picken – Principal Democratic Services Officer

Observers Present:

Councillor M. Statham (Portfolio Holder for Education)
Mr. A. Orlik (Observer, C of E Diocese)

		Action
1. 16.01.24	Welcome The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining and rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held.	

	A roll call was taken of those members present who confirmed they could both see and hear the proceedings.	
2. 16.01.24	Apologies Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Ian Baker, Sharon Guy and Wendy Dufus.	Noted
3. 16.01.24	Minutes The Schools Forum received the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 th October, 2023 (see annexed). Resolved: The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 th October, 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.	Noted
4. 16.01.24	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 17th October, 2023 None.	
5. 16.01.24	Late Item/s (urgent) to be introduced by the Chair None.	
6. 16.01.24	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) There were no items for consideration in the private session.	
7. 16.01.24	Mainstream Funding Formula 2024/25 A report was submitted: - (See annexed) Resolved (by roll call) That Schools Forum Notes:- 1. the overall level of Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding. 2. The funding factor values for 2024/25 to ensure that allocations to mainstream schools via the local	

	<p>funding formula are affordable within the funding that is available (updated values are set out at Appendix A); and;</p> <p>2.3 Endorse and recommend the formula (as set out at Appendix A), including the changes to funding factor values set out within the report, to the Director of Children's Services, the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills, and the ESFA.</p>	Finance to action.
8. 16.01.24	<p>Growth Funding</p> <p>It was noted that this item had been deferred to the next meeting of Schools Forum.</p>	Neil Picken to Add to March, 2024 agenda.
9. 16.01.24	<p>Membership and Constitution Update</p> <p>A report was submitted: -</p> <p>(See annexed)</p> <p>The Chair explained that the report updated Forum on appointments made as part of the membership review and confirmed that both he and Sean Davies had been reappointed to Schools Forum. He also confirmed that the names of substitutes for maintained primary heads would be provided in due course.</p> <p>The Chair then sought Forums view as to whether they would like to amend the Constitution to enable substitutes to be interchangeable, rather than nominated to each substantive member, so long as they were from the same category and phase of education.</p> <p>Forum agreed that the change to the Constitution would provide greater flexibility and ensure that substitutes were able to attend, when required.</p> <p>Resolved (by roll call)</p> <p>2.1 That the Constitution be amended to include the wording shown in bold italics, below:-</p> <p>'Substitutes</p> <p>Each body nominating a member is entitled to nominate a named substitute member for each</p>	Neil Picken to update constitution

member that they nominate, provided the substitute is from the same membership category and phase of education. ***For bodies nominating more than one member, each substitute shall form a pool and able to represent any nominated member so long as they are from the same category and phase of education.***

Bodies nominating substitute Members should be nominated according to the same method used for nominating members and for the same period of office (unless a vacancy occurs 'mid-term' in which case they will be appointed for the remainder of the term of office).

Notice of a substitute member must be given in writing to the Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

A substitute member may only attend the relevant meeting for which they have been nominated.'

Notes that:-

- 2.2 The Primary, Nursery and Special Forum has confirmed membership and substitutes for a period of 4 years, as follows:-

Representative	Substitute	Term of office expires
Amanda Arnold (Primary)	Vacant	11.01.2028
Cathy Draper (Primary)	Vacant	
Donna Probert (Primary)	Vacant	
Max Vlahakis (Primary)	Vacant	
Sean Davies (Primary)	Vacant	
Margaret Turley (Nursery)	Vacant	

	<p>2.3 The Walsall Association of Secondary Heads has confirmed membership and substitutes for a period of 4 years, as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="459 338 1193 714"> <thead> <tr> <th>Representative</th><th>Substitute</th><th>Term of office expires</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Billy Downie</td><td>Luke Salkeld</td><td rowspan="5">23.10.2027</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andy Seager</td><td>Kerry Solway-Blower</td></tr> <tr> <td>David Smith</td><td>Kate Hibbs</td></tr> <tr> <td>James Ludlow</td><td>Vacant</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vacancy</td><td>Vacant</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2.4 The Alternative Academy representative has confirmed membership and substitutes for a period of 4 years, as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="459 898 1193 1050"> <thead> <tr> <th>Representative</th><th>Substitute</th><th>Term of office expires</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chris Bury</td><td>Vacant</td><td>11.10.27</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2.5 The clerk will undertake to arrange elections for Governor representatives and substitutes for a period of 4 years.</p> <p>2.6 Membership of the Schools Forum will next be reviewed in June, 2025.</p>	Representative	Substitute	Term of office expires	Billy Downie	Luke Salkeld	23.10.2027	Andy Seager	Kerry Solway-Blower	David Smith	Kate Hibbs	James Ludlow	Vacant	Vacancy	Vacant	Representative	Substitute	Term of office expires	Chris Bury	Vacant	11.10.27	
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<p>10. 16.01.24</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Downie – confirming Schools Forum membership. • D. Naffati - confirming Schools Forum membership. • Sean Davies – High Needs Top up Funding. Mr Davies had submitted a question as follows:- <p>After meeting with the Minister for SEND to discuss challenges in education, a discussion was held where I stated that High Needs Top Up funding at a pupil level has not changed in Walsall for a number of years (pre COVID, I think). The Minister and his funding officer stated that Walsall has received 36% more funding for High Needs. They were shocked we were not seeing it at a pupil level. My questions are, was this merely a political answer and if we have received such an increase, how</p>																					

	<p>has that funding been used, has it been put into different areas?</p> <p>The Lead Accountant, Education, advised that the high need funding was not pupil driven and so, as the EHCP rates increase, the funding allocation didn't increase in line with those numbers. As such, whilst funding had increased, this was used to meet the costs of the EHCP's, which had grown substantially both nationally and locally. This included more children in higher cost placements.</p> <p>Forum was advised that the funding formula 24/25 would be considered by Schools Forum at its meeting in March, 2024 and include the Dedicated Schools Grant management plan.</p> <p>The Chair asked for an update report to the Schools Forum meeting to be held on 18th June, 2024 to clarify where funds had been allocated. The Lead accountant agreed to the request which was supported by members of the Forum.</p>	Louise Meredith.
11. 16.01.24	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>A copy of the Forward Plan was submitted (annexed)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Forward Plan be noted; and 2. That the following items be added to the Forward Plan:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th March, 2024 – Growth Funding • 18th June, 2024 – High Needs Top Up Funding 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Rob Thomas</p> <p>Louise Meredith</p>
12.	<p>Late Items</p> <p>None.</p>	
13.	<p>Date of Future Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Schools Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, 5th March, 2024 at 4:00pm</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.22 pm.

Signed

Date