

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 6 July 2022 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
Mr S. Davies	Primary Head Teacher, Christ Church CE (C) JMI School
Mr M. Moody	Primary Academy Representative, Goldsmiths and Rivers Academies
Mr A. Seager	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Bloxwich Academy
Ms A. Stoddart	Secondary Academy Head Teacher, Shire Oak Academy
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
Mrs E. Phillips	Academy Special School, Phoenix Academy
Mr C. Bury	Principal, The Ladders School, Alternative Provision
Mr S. Pritchard-Jones	Pupil Referral Unit representative

### Officers Present:

Sharon Kelly  
Richard Walley  
Lloyd Haynes  
Rob Thomas  
Melinder Kaur

### Observer Present:

Ms S. Guy                      Observer, National Education Union

		Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining and 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>	

	Members confirmed they could both see and hear the proceedings.	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Mike Fox, Natalie Boys, Sally Rowe and Jenny Garratt.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes – 9 March 2022</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March, 2022, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of Schools Forum, be approved and signed as a true record.</p>	Noted
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9 March 2022</b></p> <p>The meeting reviewed and noted the actions.</p>	Noted
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Late Item/s (urgent) to be introduced by the Chair</b></p> <p><b>Specialist Provision Working Group</b></p> <p>Cathy Draper provided an update on the work of the Specialist Provision Review Group.</p> <p>It was reported that banding had been validated as part of the workstream to ensure it was fit for purpose; the average rate of funding per child for primary was now higher and secondary slightly lower, using the new funding mechanism and that further financial monitoring would be undertaken during the summer.</p> <p>Mr Thomas advised that modelling provided an indication of future demand for the next academic year and reassured the Forum that there were no children without a school place.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That an update be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Funding Formula Group</b></p> <p>The Chair explained that the group had met and would convene again in September, 2022 to discuss growth funding in further detail due to rise in secondary places over coming years. Mr Haynes explained that work had been undertaken in respect of this matter to provide a number of options to</p>	<p>Further update in September, 2022.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	mitigate the potential impact of a growth in secondary places on funding models.	
6.	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>The Schools Forum noted that there were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	Noted
7.	<p><b>Update from Local Area Improvement Board</b></p> <p>The Forum considered an update on the work of the Local Area Improvement Board.</p> <p>Lesley Foster gave a presentation. It was highlighted that the Board had convened twice since the Forum was updated.</p> <p>In May the Board had been advised that 138 of the EHCP backlog assessments had been completed with 53 still remaining. This had impacted upon timelines for new assessments with 20% of plans issued on time over previous 12 months and 18.6% in 2022. However, when the backlog cases were removed the percentage of EHCP's issued on time is circa 50%.</p> <p>Lesley reported that further updates had been provided on the Walsall EHC Journey Plan, Walsall self assessment Send report; development of a communication and engagement action plan relating to the ECHP send survey and FACE Walsall survey.</p> <p>The Board had also convened on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 considering items such as the LAA inspection next steps, noting that the draft report hadn't yet arrived from Ofsted. It was possible that this wouldn't be made available until September, 2022. A presentation on Public health and update on the work of the specialist review working group were also received.</p> <p>Lesley sought clarity as to whether the updates should now be provided to the Learning Alliance, operational from September, 2022 or to the Forum. Members agreed that the Learning Alliance would be appropriate.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That further updates on the Local Area Improvement Board be submitted to the Learning Alliance.</p>	Further updates to be presented to the Learning Alliance.
8.	<b>Lamb Grant</b>	

	<p>The Chair explained that there would be a change in funding streams. Primary and Nursery Forum and Special Schools Forum had met to discuss this. The various forums had suggested that a school improvement group be established to enable them to make a decision on future funding.</p> <p>The Director (Access and Inclusion) confirmed that School Improvement Activity was now the responsibility of schools rather than local authorities and agreed to support the group.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That a school improvement group be established from the Autumn Term.</p>	<p>That a school improvement group be established from the Autumn Term.</p>
9.	<p><b>Substitute Members</b></p> <p>The Forum considered a report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>[annexed]</p> <p>Mr Picken drew members attention the two options for appointing substitute members and the need for clarity from the Forum as to the training requirements of substitutes, regardless of the process by which they are appointed.</p> <p>Discussion ensued around the need for substitute members to shadow meetings to enable them to become acquainted with the work of the Forum. Concern was expressed that the membership could become unstable should the main member rely on the attendance of the substitute frequently as consistency at the Forum was important in terms of decision making as matters often spanned several meetings before being determined. Mr Picken advised that whichever option was chosen, the appointed substitute must be named and would serve for the duration of the named representatives term of office.</p> <p>The chair queried whether substitutions would impact upon the requirement in the constitution for appointed members to attend a set number of meetings per year. Mr Picken explained that the rules appertaining to attendance at meetings would still apply and be enforced, if required. Should a member notify of a substitution the member themselves would still be noted as an apology and not present.</p> <p>Mr Bury asked whether the representative from the Alternative Provision School would need to be a colleague</p>	<p>NP to provide clarity to Chair, Mr Bury and Mr Pritchard – Jones regarding substitutions.</p> <p>Constitution to be updated.</p>

	<p>from within that school as the sole provider in Walsall. Mr Pritchard Jones exclaimed that he was in a similar position as the sole Pupil Referral Unit. Mr Picken confirmed that this would be the case but would confirm with the Chair, Mr Bury and Mr Pritchard – Jones.</p> <p>Mrs Jones advised that governor representatives do not have a nominating body. Mr Picken explained that a substitute member would be sought using the same mechanism, in this instance, via an election.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The body nominating a member nominates a named substitute member for each member that they nominate;</li> <li>2. Substitute members are encouraged to shadow the nominated member prior to substituting for that person and should attend training, when made available to nominated/exiting members.</li> </ol>	
10.	<p><b>Annual Report</b></p> <p>The Forum considered a report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>[annexed]</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Annual Report be noted.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>The Forum considered a report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>[annexed]</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum agrees to hold its meetings on the following dates at 4.00 p.m.:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesday 20 September, 2022 (Autumn)  Tuesday 11 October, 2022 (Autumn)  Tuesday 6 December, 2022 (Autumn)  Tuesday 17 January, 2023 (Spring)</p>	

	<p>Tuesday 7 March, 2023 (Spring) Tuesday 20 June, 2023 (Summer)</p>	
13.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None</p>	Noted
14.	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>Mrs Jones advised that the report from Strategic Board, scheduled for October, could be removed as this would now be reported to the Learning Alliance.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Forward Plan be noted; and</li> <li>2. That the report from Strategic Board for October be removed.</li> </ol>	Noted
15.	<p><b>Late Items</b></p> <p>There were no late items for consideration.</p>	Noted
16.	<p><b>Date and Time of future meetings</b></p> <p>Tuesday 20 September, 2022 (Autumn) Tuesday 11 October, 2022 (Autumn) Tuesday 6 December, 2022 (Autumn) Tuesday 17 January, 2023 (Spring) Tuesday 7 March, 2023 (Spring) Tuesday 20 June, 2023 (Summer)</p>	

The meeting terminated at 16.55 pm.

Signed .....

Date: .....