

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at 4.00 p.m. at Barr Beacon School, Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall**

**Present:-** Mr. G. Crowther (Chair)  
Mrs. C. Draper  
Mrs. M. Sheehy  
Ms. T. Coles  
Dame M. Brennan  
Mrs. B.E. Westwood  
Mrs. G. Healy  
Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
Mr. B. Powell  
Mr. M. Ison

Mr. T. Milovsorov attended as substitute for Mrs. C. Fraser  
Mr. E. Loft attended as substitute for Mr. R. Bragger  
Mr. T. Swain attended as substitute for Dr. A. Bruton  
Mr. A. Lawrence attended as substitute for Mr. M. Allman  
S. Davies attended as substitute for Mr. G. Thornton

**In Attendance:-** Lynda Poole - Assistant Director, Children's Services, Walsall MBC  
Dan Mortiboys - Education Finance, Walsall MBC  
Dawn Morris - Education Finance, Walsall MBC

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1. 8.4.14</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Dr. A. Bruton, Ms. H. Harnisch, Mr. M. Allman, Mrs. C. Fraser, Mr. A. Orlik and Mr. R. Bragger.	
<b>2. 8.4.14</b>	<b>Appointment of Chair</b>  In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, nominations were requested for the appointment of Chair for the duration of the meeting.  <b>Resolved</b>  That Mr. G. Crowther be appointed Chair for the duration of the meeting.	

<p><b>3.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes - 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2014</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p><b>Special Schools Funding Formula</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys reported that the Special Schools Funding Formula had been approved by Cabinet in March, 2014 and confirmation had been received from the Department for Education that it had been agreed as submitted.</p> <p><b>Walsall Association of Governors</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys stated that a request had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the £10,000 funding to support the Walsall Association of Governors. The Authority should be advised of the outcome after the Easter break.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chair</b></p> <p>There were no late items for introduction by the Chair.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Vulnerable Learners</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole informed the Forum that the school improvement handbook included eight strands that had been drawn together and included issues for vulnerable learners. In response to points raised, Mrs. Poole confirmed that the funding for leadership</p>	

	<p>and governance would include work with Governors. Two national leaders of governance would work alongside Governors and use their expertise across Walsall's schools. Members questioned who would carry out the work outlined in the report, who would provide the accountability and questioned whether the accountability and progress should be referred to WASH, Special Schools Forum and Primary Forum rather than Schools Forum. Mrs. Poole undertook to look into this and build it into the report and advised that a group of Governors could be commissioned in a lead role on Governing Bodies.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That full information be submitted to the Forum to enable it to reach a decision on the funding support for the achievement of vulnerable learners.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership Development - Funding Support</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Poole enlarged on the contents of the report and indicated that some of the funding for middle leaders would be utilised for the Bespoke Research Seminars on specific identified topics as indicated in Paragraph 1.4 of the report. It was felt that the "cluster" structure could be utilised to develop support for the eight strands in the School Improvement Recovery Programme with funding built in and national leaders of education and volunteers from Head Teachers who had relevant expertise could assist. This focus would relate to schools causing concern and would establish good practice across schools and Academies.</p> <p>After discussion it was,</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That a more detailed report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.</p>	

<p><b>9. 8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>National Fair Funding Formula</b></p> <p>A report was submitted and Mr. Mortiboys circulated Appendix 1 at the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that Walsall would receive an additional £½ million into the schools budget next year which equated to 3%. He suggested that Forum might wish to focus on the high needs block and value for money as indicated in Section 7 of the report.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That Schools Forum note that a consultation on fair funding had been published by the Department for Education and that the consultation confirmed that there would not be a national funding formula until 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 at the earliest;</p> <p>(2) That Schools Forum approve Appendix 1 as its response to the fair funding consultation, subject to any comments from Members being submitted to the Head of Schools Finance by 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2014;</p> <p>(3) That Schools Forum consider the budget setting process for 2015/16 and look to ensure that current expenditure budgets outside the schools funding formula, in particular, High Needs Block and 2 year olds are reviewed, and that value for money be embedded into all processes;</p> <p>(4) That all future Schools Forum reports contain specific comments on value for money and impact as part of the front page of the report.</p>	
<p><b>10. 8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Licences 2014/15</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That schools representatives ensure that all maintained schools and recoupment</p>	

	<p>Academies know that the licences in Section 2 of the annexed report are covered centrally and there was no need to purchase them;</p> <p>(2) That schools representatives ensure that all maintained schools know that the licences in Section 3 of the annexed report were covered centrally and there was no need to purchase them;</p> <p>(3) That schools representatives ensure that all schools know that all other licences remain the responsibility of the school;</p> <p>(4) That Schools Forum note that this creates a benefit to all schools because their budgets had not been reduced to pay for these central costs.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Teachers Pension contributions</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Education Services Grant (ESG)</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum note that there was a consultation on ESG and that any relevant responses around DSG would be presented at a future meeting.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Further Information to Schools</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed Schools Forum that consideration was being given to the way information was passed onto schools around Maintained Secondary Schools and Local Government Pension Scheme as “the Staffroom” received a low level of response.</p>	

	<p>Schools Forum was informed that its agenda and reports were included on CMIS and links to that could be provided to schools.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum on providing information to schools.</p>	
<p><b>14.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the Forward Plan be noted.</p>	
<p><b>15.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chair</b></p> <p>There were no late items submitted.</p>	
<p><b>16.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence circulated to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>17.</b> <b>8.4.14</b></p>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was <b>NOTED</b> that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.10 p.m.