

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 12th June, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)
Mrs. M. Sheehy
Mr. D. Brownsword
Mr. R.C. Yeomans
Mr. G. Crowther
Dame M. Brennan
Mr. J.P. Clarke
Ms. H. Lomas
Mrs. J. Ward
P. Hunt
Mr. E. Gee
Ms. M. Yates
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. A. Orlik
Mr. D. Clough
Mr. Murray

In Attendance:- Mr. D. Mortiboys - Walsall MBC
Ms. D. Morris - Walsall MBC
Ms. M. Costello - Walsall MBC

		Action
1. 12.6.12	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. M. Vlahakis, Mrs. C. Draper, Mr. B. Powell and Mrs. M. Robinson. The Chairman introduced Ms. Mary Costello, Walsall Council Audit Section.	
2. 12.6.12	Minutes (a) 13th March, 2012	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th March, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

	(b) 27th March, 2012	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 th March, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. 12.6.12	Matters arising from the minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes of 13 th March, 2012 or 27 th March, 2012.	
4. 12.6.12	Late items to be introduced by the Chairman The Chairman agreed to take a late item relating to special needs funding at the relevant point on the agenda.	
5. 12.6.12	Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended) The Forum noted that there were no items for consideration in the private session.	
6. 12.6.12	Schools Funding Formula Changes and Consultation A report was submitted. Mr. Mortiboys highlighted the key information contained in the "School funding reform: Next steps to a fairer system" document and stated that the Schools Funding Formula Group had been re-convened and met on 30 th May, 2012. Schools would be consulted on the document before the end of term. He confirmed that delegation and de-delegation would be decided by the maintained Primary and maintained Secondary Members representing their own particular phase. A full breakdown would be provided in due course. Academies had made their decision on a school by school basis. After discussion it was,	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the process and progress towards developing a new funding formula in line with DfE instructions be endorsed;</p> <p>(2) That the consultation and consultation response be noted.</p>	
<p>7. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Schools Funding Formula - SEN</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to the significant changes in special educational needs and that the age range had been extended to include birth to 25 years. He drew Members' attention to diagram 1 of the attached report.</p> <p>Work had been undertaken with Heather Lomas on the formula and meetings would be taking place with Special Schools Head Teachers in the near future. Discussions with neighbouring authorities had been held on the local offer process in order to provide consistency in the provision of funding. As funding was "real time", it needed to take place expediently.</p> <p>Ms. Morris confirmed that the Black Country Authorities were meeting on 19th July to consider the local offer. Top-up funding to be met by schools should be uniform. Diagram 1 in the document demonstrated the funding flow. Contributions would be met from existing funds within the schools budgets.</p> <p>In response to questions, Ms. Morris confirmed that the Local Authority met the costs of all statements. There was a small contingency for statements of more than 17½ hours. Funding from the statementing budget may need to be de-delegated and added to the notional SEN as base funding. £6,000 would provide 15 hours and additional funding would be required for schools providing more than 15 hours. The top-up would be devolved rather than delegated. At present, statementing was excluded from Minimum Funding Guarantee. The proposals would take effect from April, 2013.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report and Appendix be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Schools Funding Formula - Early Years</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Morris outlined the contents of the report and informed the Forum that the Early Years Funding Group would be meeting in the near future.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>9. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Schools Forum Membership</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys drew the Forum's attention to Table 1 contained in the report which set out the number of pupils in the various phases of schools. In view of the numbers of schools obtaining Academy status, there had been a shift in the number of pupils from maintained schools to Academies. This would result in the need to reduce the number of maintained Secondary and maintained Primary representatives on the Forum by one Member in each phase.</p> <p>The DfE proposal also introduced changes to the voting rights of other Members on the Forum as indicated in Table 2 of the report.</p> <p>Members were of the view that Walsall Schools Forum worked well with a good level of expertise and questioned whether a local variation of the suggested membership could be created.</p> <p>After discussion it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the maintained Primary and Secondary representatives be requested to raise this issue at the Primary and Secondary Heads Forum for discussion and report back to the next meeting;</p>	

	<p>(2) That Walsall Schools Forum notes the changes around Schools Forum membership, voting rights and related information from the DfE documents précised in the annexed report;</p> <p>(3) That Walsall Schools Forum notes Walsall's current compliance in regards to publishing minutes, agendas and running a public meeting;</p> <p>(4) That Walsall Schools Forum notes that further advice had been requested from the DfE around the changes in membership;</p> <p>(5) That Academy membership be referred to the next meeting;</p> <p>(6) That the revised Walsall Schools Forum Constitution to reflect the changes in line with the DfE intentions from 1st September, 2012 be referred to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>10. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Schools Forum Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to Table 1 of the report setting out revised dates for future meetings in order that deadlines to various documents can be met.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That Schools Forum accept the revised timetable for meetings up to 31st March, 2013;</p> <p>(2) That Schools Forum note the proposed Forward Plan and timings.</p>	
<p>11. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Annual Report 2011/12</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Schools Forum Annual Report 2011/12 be noted.</p>	
<p>12. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>It was agreed that the dates for future meetings be adjusted in accordance with the proposals in the earlier item.</p>	
<p>13. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Late items</p> <p>Special Needs Funding</p> <p>Mr. Brownsword referred to a query that he had received relating to the claw back of special educational needs funding.</p> <p>Ms. Morris informed the Forum that some years ago, statementing provision was delegated to schools and drop-in sessions had been held to discuss provision, staffing and funding. Head Teachers had requested that budgets be as flat as possible but they were advised that there would be reductions and changes in-year. This mostly applied to Years 6 going into Years 7 and Years 2 going into Years 3. The biggest fluctuation occurred between July to September and it had been agreed that adjustments would be made on a termly basis for September and January. Reduced funding would not reduce the in-year budget but there would be a prior year adjustment on 215 statements. Only a small percentage of Primary schools were affected by the changes and the school that raised this issue had lost around £1,500.00. Any additional hours from September would be recognised and funded for the remainder of the financial year. The trigger previously agreed was 17½ hours, anything in excess of that would receive an immediate allocation when the child entered the school. She reminded the Forum that from next year, funding would be provided on a “real time” basis.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information provided be noted.</p>	
<p>14. 12.6.12</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None received.</p>	
<p>15. 12.6.12</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, 10th July, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.