

Walsall Council Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 26 September 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
Mrs J. Garratt	Primary Head Teacher, Walsall Wood
Mr S. Davies	Primary Head Teacher, Christ Church CE (C) JMI School
Mrs N. Boys	Primary Academy Head Teacher, Lodge Farm
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 Ladder School, Alternative Provision
Mrs M. Turley	Nursery Head Teacher, Ogley Hay Nursery
Mr T. Hopkins	PVI Representative

Officers Present:

Mrs S. Kelly – Director of Access and Inclusion
Mr R. Walley – Technical Accounting, Treasury Management & Education Finance Manager
Mr L. Haynes – Head of Finance – Technical & Transactional
Mr R. Thomas – Head of Access
Mr N. Picken – Principal Democratic Services Officer

Observers Present:

Mr A. Orlik	Observer, Church of England Diocese
Ms S. Guy	Observer, National Education Union

1.	Election of Chair	Action
26.09.22	A nomination was made for Mr. Vlahakis to be appointed Chair of the Forum for the 2022/23 academic year.	

	<p>The Clerk put the nomination to the vote by way of a roll call of Forum members.</p> <p>Resolved (unanimously)</p> <p>That Mr. M. Vlahakis be appointed Chair of the Forum for the 2022/23 academic year.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>26.09.22</p>	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>A nomination was made for Mr A. Seager to be appointed Vice Chair of the Forum for the 2022/23 academic year.</p> <p>The Clerk put the nomination to the vote by way of a roll call of Forum members</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr A. Seager be elected as Vice Chair of the Forum for the 2022/23 academic school year.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>26.09.22</p>	<p>Welcome</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> <p>A roll call was taken of those members present who confirmed they could both see and hear the proceedings.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>26.09.22</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from the following members: Mr M. Moody and Mr M Fox.</p>	Noted
<p>5.</p> <p>26.09.22</p>	<p>Minutes – 6 July, 2022</p> <p>The Schools Forum received the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July, 2022 (see annexed).</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July, 2022, a copy having been previously circulated to each Member of Schools Forum, be approved and signed as a true record.</p>	

<p>6. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 6 July, 2022</p> <p>The Chair clarified that substitute members from the PRU and Ladder School would be nominated by the appointed representatives.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the update be noted.</p>	
<p>7. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Late Item/s (urgent) to be introduced by the Chair</p> <p>There were no late items.</p>	
<p>8. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>9. 26.09.22</p>	<p>School Music Service</p> <p>A report was submitted</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>The Head of Finance – Technical and Transactional confirmed that the funding requested came to the Local Authority in the Central School Services Block and so should Schools Forum be minded to approve the funding it would not be a deduction from each individual schools budgets.</p> <p>Resolved (by roll call)</p> <p>That £38,000 be granted to Walsall Music Education Hub and Service in 2023/2024, in line with previous years.</p>	<p>Approved. Lloyd Haynes to ensure funding transferred to the music service.</p>
<p>10. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Local Area Improvement Board update – Sendi</p> <p>This matter was deferred to a future meeting.</p>	<p>To be added to October 2022 Agenda.</p>
<p>11. 26.09.22</p>	<p>School improvement working group</p> <p>This matter was deferred to a future meeting.</p>	<p>To be added to October, 2022 Agenda.</p>

12.
26.09.22

Specialist Support Services

A report was submitted.

(see annexed)

Mrs Draper provided a further update, highlighting that all of the information about the development of specialist places both in special schools and in the specialist resource provision that are being developed in mainstream schools are reported to the specialist provision review group.

In response to a question regarding the data which identified where specialist places may be, Mrs Draper confirmed that, in terms of the predictions about places needed over time, a detailed data exercise had been undertaken of the last 5 years data and used to predict future demand over the next 5 years.

In terms of long-term solutions, it was asked whether Hubs would be linked to SEN provision or there would be designation changes. Mrs Draper explained that a number of different strategies would be considered such as growth of special schools, specialist resource provisions and the potential for hubs/satellites. The Head of Access supported this noting that there were several workstreams underway such as age designations, out of borough placements and categories of schools and an application for an all age/all type Free School. He highlighted that the work on numbers/demand linked to other work on Asset Strategy and expansion opportunities.

The Head of Finance – Technical and Transactional stated that finance had been working on the funding envelope as there would be an increase in places going forward. This was aided by a template from the Department for Education to help predict the demand against the funding that was likely to be available from the higher need block over the same period. The initial draft would be discussed with the ESFA and further actions in terms of sufficient funding is available it would be referred to Schools Forum.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

<p>13. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Supply Cover Costs and Funding for Trade Union Facilities Time</p> <p>A letter was submitted from the National Association of Head Teachers, Association of School and College Lecturers and the National Education Union.</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>The Head of Finance – Technical and Transactional advised that this letter was submitted annually ahead of the formal de delegation vote at the October Schools Forum meeting. The letter is in support of the de delegation requests. It was confirmed that Academies would buy in services individually as the vote in October, 2022 covered maintained primary and secondaries. Academies are then asked to sign up individually by way of a service level agreement.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the letter be received.</p>	
<p>14. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>15 26.09.22</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the following items be included within the Forward Plan for the October meeting:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local Area Improvement Board Update; b. School Improvement Working Group; and 2. That the Forward Plan be noted. 	
<p>16. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Late Items</p> <p>There were no late items for consideration.</p>	
<p>17. 26.09.22</p>	<p>Date and Time of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 4.00pm</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.30 pm.

Signed

Date: