

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 4th December, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)
Mr. M. Vlahakis (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. C. Draper
Mrs. M. Sheehy
Mr. D. Brownsword
Mr. G. Crowther
Dame M. Brennan
Mr. J.P. Clarke
Mrs. J. Ward
Mr. E. Gee
Mrs. M. Woodcock
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. B. Powell
Mr. M. Ison
Mr. J. Murray
Mr. R. Bragger

In Attendance:- Mr. D. Mortiboys - Walsall MBC
Ms. D. Morris - Walsall MBC
Ms. L. Hughes - Walsall MBC
Mr. F. Barnes - Walsall Children's Services - Serco
Mr. K. Howkins - Education Funding Agency (E.F.A)

		Action
	The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced Mr. K. Howkins of the Education Funding Agency, who had been invited to attend the meeting to observe the proceedings.	
1. 4.12.12	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. G. Thornton, Ms. P. Hunt, Mrs. M. Yates, Mr. T. Perrett, Mr. A. Orlik and Ms. H. Harnisch.	
2. 4.12.12	Minutes - 6th November, 2012	The minutes of the meeting held on 6 th November, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. 4.12.12	Matters arising from the minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes.	
4. 4.12.12	Late items to be introduced by the Chairman There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.	
5. 4.12.12	Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended) The Forum noted that there were no items for consideration in the private session.	
6. 4.12.12	Maintained secondary schools to make decisions on whether to retain centrally funded services (De-delegation) A report was submitted. In response to points raised, Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that the fee in respect of free school meals related to £20.10 per free school meals pupil. Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that the following Members of the Forum were eligible to vote on this issue:- Mr. S. Flynn Mr. J.P. Clarke Mr. F. Hodgkinson Resolved (1) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of free school meal eligibility service (£20.10 per free school meal pupil); (2) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve that insurance services will not be de-delegated. Funds will be retained by Secondary Schools but schools note that a traded service will be available at the value of the delegation;	

	<p>(3) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of licences/subscriptions (£2.63 per pupil);</p> <p>(4) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve that staff costs - maternity supply cover will not be de-delegated, funding will be retained by Maintained Secondary Schools;</p> <p>(5) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of staff costs - Union and public duties (£13.59 per pupil);</p> <p>(6) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of behaviour support services (£63.08 per pupil) to be agreed and reviewed on an annual basis;</p> <p>(7) That Maintained Secondary School Members of Schools Forum note that Library and Museum Services for secondary have previously been de-delegated so no de-delegation decision is required.</p>	
<p>7. 4.12.12</p>	<p>De-delegation of Music Service funding</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to a discussion he had prior to the meeting with Mr. Howkins (E.F.A.) when it was pointed out that the Music Service in Walsall was unique and this could be funded by top slicing school budgets rather than de-delegation. This would not cost schools any money as it would be a continuation of the arrangements for 2012/13. He confirmed that all Members of the Forum could vote on this matter.</p> <p>Resolved (Unanimously)</p> <p>That Schools Forum approve a one year agreement to enable top slicing from the budget of all schools benefiting from the service and note that this would be a continuation of support for the service as that provided in 2012/13.</p>	

<p>8. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Enlargement of Phoenix Primary ESBD Special School</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Barnes (Walsall Children’s Services - Serco) outlined the contents of the report. The six places for the nurturing provision would be pursued as part of the local offer for SEN within a localities focus; this was a separate element to the enlargement of Phoenix Primary ESBD special school itself. Option 4 included in the paper was the favoured option that included the parallel pursuit of nurturing provision within local Primary Schools at a separate level and funded separately.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mr. Barnes confirmed that appropriate training would be provided next term to schools involved free of charge.</p> <p>After discussion it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Schools Forum note the enlargement of Phoenix Primary ESBD Special School by six planned places.</p>	
<p>9. 4.12.12</p>	<p>High Needs Funding Formula Update</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Schools Forum note the content of the annexed report in regard to the definition of Notional SEN budget, exceptional circumstances and progress of High Needs Funding.</p>	
<p>10. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Scheme for Financing Schools - Premature retirement</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p>	

Mr. Mortiboys outlined the content of the report and drew attention to the guidance and the scheme for financing schools set out in Paragraph 2. He confirmed that a further report would be submitted to the meeting in February, 2013 and suggested that a small Working Group be set up to discuss proposed changes to the schemes in line with national policy. Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that the funding held by the Council would decrease as more schools transferred to Academies; the funding formed part of the schools budget some years ago but the Council had continued to fund premature retirement costs which were charged annually as a pension top up. In accordance with DfE advice, the Council would not continue to take up these costs. He confirmed that the charges against schools would relate to new premature retirements.

Mr. Bragger referred to the burden this would place on small schools and it would worsen their budgetary situations.

Mr. Howkins informed the Forum that the proposed changes to the scheme were in accordance with legislation contained within the 2002 Education Act, redundancy costs would be borne by the Local Authority and premature retirement charges would fall to the relevant school.

After discussion it was,

Resolved

- (1) That Schools Forum note that the change to the scheme for financing schools in respect of premature retirement would be discussed with teacher Unions and will be part of the consultation on a revised scheme for financing schools;
- (2) That a Working Group be established to consider this matter as follows:-

Mrs. M. Sheehy
Mr. R. Bragger
Mrs. C. Draper
Mr. M. Vlahakis
Mr. J.P. Clarke

<p>11. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be agreed, subject to the meeting due to take place on 15th January, 2013 being cancelled and that the meeting scheduled for 12th March, 2013 be provisionally booked and available if required.</p>	
<p>12. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>There were no late items submitted.</p>	
<p>13. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence received.</p>	
<p>14. 4.12.12</p>	<p>Election of Chairman for the remainder of the year</p> <p>Mr. Flynn informed the Forum that he would be retiring at the end of the term and thanked the Group for their help during his term of office.</p> <p>The Clerk requested nominations for the appointment of Chairman.</p> <p>The following nominations were received:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mr. G. Crowther Mr. M. Vlahakis</p> <p>Three votes were received in favour of Mr. Crowther and five votes received in favour of Mr. Vlahakis.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr. Vlahakis be appointed Chairman of the Forum for the remainder of the current term of office, expiring with the first meeting of the Autumn Term.</p>	

	<p>Appointment of Vice-Chairman</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the appointment of Vice-Chairman be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum.</p>	
<p>15. 4.12.12</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, 12th February, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.00 p.m.