

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. M. Vlahakis (Chairman)
Dr. A. Bruton (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. C. Draper
Mrs. M. Sheehy
Ms. T. Coles
Mr. S. Davies
Mr. G. Crowther
Mr. N. Smith
Mrs. J. Ward
Ms. M. Yates
Mrs. M. Woodcock
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. B. Powell
Mr. A. Orlik
Mr. R. Bragger

In Attendance:- Mr. D. Mortiboys - Education Finance, Walsall MBC
Ms. D. Morris - Education Finance, Walsall MBC
Ms. L. Hughes - Assistant Director, Children's Services, Walsall MBC
Ms. J. Doughty - Interim Lead Officer for School Improvement, Walsall MBC

		Action
1. 24.9.13	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the election of Chairman were received in respect of:-</p> <p>Mr. G. Crowther Mr. M. Vlahakis</p> <p>Upon being put to the vote, there were four votes in favour of Mr. Crowther and six votes in favour of Mr. Vlahakis, it was, therefore,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr. Vlahakis be appointed Chairman of the Forum for a period of twelve months.</p> <p>In the absence of the Chairman, nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman were requested.</p>	

	<p>A nomination was received in respect of Dr. A. Bruton. There being no other nominations, it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Dr. A. Bruton be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Forum for a period of twelve months.</p> <p>In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.</p>	
<p>2. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. J.P. Clarke, Mr. M. Ison, Mr. S. Pritchard-Jones and Ms. H. Harnisch.</p>	
<p>3. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Minutes - 9th July, 2013</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July, 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to an amendment to the "Revised School Funding Formula Consultation" resolution (4), last line, delete "from £200,000" and insert "a maximum of" after the word "to".</p>
<p>4. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
	<p>At this juncture, the Chairman attended the meeting and took the Chair.</p>	

<p>5. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman referred to a late item he had been advised of by Ms. Hughes relating to funding for the commissioning for the Integrated Support Service.</p> <p>The Chairman introduced and welcomed Ms. J. Doughty, Interim Lead Officer for School Improvement. He also welcomed Ms. T. Coles, Primary Head Teacher, Blackwood School and Dr. A. Bruton, Academy representative.</p>	
<p>6. 24.9.13</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>7. 24.9.13</p>	<p>DSG 12-13 outturn statement sign off</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys circulated copies of the 2012/13 outturn statement for sign off and the budget 2013/14 DSG Chief Finance Officer statement.</p> <p>The 2012/13 statement had been audited and will be finalised at Audit Committee on 25th September, 2013. The Council's external auditors had been satisfied that the funds had been used in an appropriate way. The 2013/14 statement was to confirm that the budget had been allocated correctly.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the DSG 2012/13 outturn statement and the budget 2013/14 DSG Chief Finance Officer statement be noted.</p>	
<p>8. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Special Schools Funding Review</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Ms. Morris outlined the contents of the report and confirmed that two meetings had taken place on the funding matrix to consider a possible matrix and</p>	

	<p>proposed staffing ratios as outlined in the report. The Group was looking to use the Wolverhampton model as the basis with Walsall data included. A meeting with all special school heads was proposed in the next few days on the funding review and the recommendations would be submitted to the 15th October Forum meeting.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>9. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Walsall’s Scheme for Financing Schools 2013-14 further revisions</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed changes highlighted in the annexed report and it was confirmed that redundancy costs in respect of school closures could not be included in the DSG.</p> <p>Members representing maintained schools were requested to vote on the recommendations contained in Paragraphs 2.6 and 3.1 of the annexed report and there being nine Members voting in favour and none against it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the revised scheme for financing schools 2013/14 be submitted for consultation with all maintained schools;</p> <p>(2) That the revisions and changes detailed in the annexed report be approved;</p> <p>(3) That from September, 2013, budget share will be made available to Governing Bodies of schools operating within the Authority’s financial systems termly in advance. Schools operating external banking arrangements will continue to receive budget paid in monthly instalments. All schools will receive payments made in respect of top-up for pupils with high needs termly in advance, subject to pupil data held at the beginning of each term. Top-up funding to relate to specific pupils and actual provision made</p>	

	<p>requires it to be necessary, at the end of each term, to adjust termly payments upwards or downwards to reflect any change in provision during the term.</p>	
<p>10. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Schools funding formula</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that the consultation document had not yet been received and it was proposed to bring results of the schools funding formula consultation to the Forum on 15th October, 2013 to enable a recommendation to be made to Cabinet. He confirmed that options on surpluses was limited. Forum Members would need to brief the schools they represented and any questions could be directed to the Council staff listed in the report.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the Working Group look through various options to put forward the best option arrived at.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that a survey monkey questionnaire would be submitted to all head teachers based on the questions contained in the attached report.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the contents of the report be noted.</p>	
<p>11. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Potential de-delegation discussion</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys outlined proposals for Council to attend both Primary and Secondary Forum to discuss de-delegation and requested that Steering Groups contact him in order that this can be progressed.</p> <p>With regard to the Integrated Behaviour Support Service, which was hosted by the Council and commissioned through Schools Forum. Ms. Hughes undertook to provide a report to the Forum outlining the impact of the service and the activities carried out on behalf of schools in order that a decision could be made on whether this service be de-delegated.</p>	

	<p>Mr. Bragger asked that secondary heads contact him should they require a presentation to their Forum meeting relating to Trade Union duties.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the information on potential de-delegation be noted.</p>	
<p>12. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</p> <p>Learning Consortium</p> <p>Ms. Hughes informed Members of the work currently taking place with schools on school to school working.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the present position with regard to the Learning Consortium and that information be included relating to specific details of partnerships.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted and a report be submitted to a future meeting.</p>	
	<p>The Integrated Behaviour Support Service was dealt with at Item 11, potential de-delegation discussion.</p>	
<p>13. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be agreed as set out.</p>	
<p>14. 24.9.13</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence received.</p>	

15. 24.9.13	Date and time of next meeting It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 15 th October, 2013 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	
------------------------------	--	--

The meeting terminated at 5.05 p.m.