

## Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Barr Beacon School, Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall

**Present:-** Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)  
Mr. M. Vlahakis (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs. C. Draper  
Mrs. M. Sheehy  
Mr. D. Brownsword  
Dame M. Brennan  
Ms. H. Lomas  
Mrs. J. Ward  
Mr. E. Gee  
Ms. M. Yates  
Mr. B. Powell  
Mr. T. Perrett  
Mr. M. Ison  
Mr. R. Bragger  
Mr. G. Thornton

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

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b> <b>9.10.12</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. G. Crowther, Mrs. P. Hunt, Mr. F. Hodgkinson and Ms. H. Harnisch.  The Chairman and Members welcomed Mr. Gary Thornton, Head Teacher of Palfrey Junior School who had replaced Mr. Yeomans.	
<b>2.</b> <b>9.10.12</b>	<b>Minutes - 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2012</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
<b>3.</b> <b>9.10.12</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that the Sneyd balances had been predicted and allocated to schools during	

	<p>the current financial year.</p> <p>With the endorsement of the Forum, the Chairman undertook to write to Ms. L. Hughes, Assistant Director, Walsall MBC, stating that the Forum was happy with the process for decisions on de-delegation of funding and the Members who had made up the Working Group. She should also be advised that the Forum was confident that the process had been undertaken fairly.</p>	<p>Chairman to write to Louise Hughes, Walsall MBC</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>The Chairman informed the Forum that Ms. Lomas would raise an item on SEN.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>The Forum noted that there were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Final Schools Funding Formula</b></p> <p>A report, together with Appendices 1 and 2 were submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that Appendix 1 relating to pupil led factors would be submitted to the Department for Education at the end of the month. He requested that a permanent Funding Formula Working Group be set up in order that meetings could be called at short notice.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Ms. Morris informed the Forum that the current data shown on the Appendix had been used. DfE would uprate the information that they had provided to us to model later this term in order to bring it as up-to-date as possible.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys stated that he would report the redefined English as an Additional Language (EAL) definition to the Forum when confirmation had been obtained from the DfE.</p>	

	<p>The lump sum factor agreed as part of the process was £175,000 per school and the SEN provision increased this to £200,000.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the contents of the report and Appendices be noted;</p> <p>(2) That the previous recommendation be confirmed as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“That Schools Forum was pleased that consultation was over and commends the formula to Cabinet.”</p> <p>(3) That approval be given to the establishment of a permanent Funding Formula Working Group consisting of the current membership as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sean Flynn Gary Crowther Max Vlahakis Michelle Sheehy Heather Lomas Jenny Ward</p>	
<p><b>7. 9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys informed the Forum that the grant had been audited and there were no adverse comments.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That the outturn 2011/12 DSG Chief Finance Officer statement be noted;</p> <p>(2) That approval be given to use the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 for the 2012/13 DSG budget statement;</p> <p>(3) That Schools Forum note that Grant Thornton had made no adverse statements regarding the 2011/12 DSG expenditure;</p>	

	(4) That Schools Forum note the very high level of accuracy in forecasting pupil numbers.	
<p><b>8. 9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Process for Decisions on De-Delegation of Funding</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that it would be necessary to call a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November for a decision on the de-delegation of funding. Primary Forum had discussed this matter at a recent meeting and was due to meet again on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 to discuss the matter further. Enquiries had been received from schools requesting information on indicative numbers.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to a meeting with the Department for Education when they advised that it was not necessary for the Forum meeting to be quorate in order for the issue to be voted on.</p> <p>Mrs. Ensor advised the Forum that decisions made at an inquorate meeting could be open to legal challenge and recommended that sufficient numbers of Members attend to enable the vote to be taken.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that not all Members were eligible to vote on the matter but as some of the services involved employed staff, 90 day notices could need to be issued.</p> <p>The Chairman indicated that the Secondary sector was not in a position to make a decision on de-delegation as not all the information had been made available to them.</p> <p>Mr. Vlahakis indicated that the Primary sector would be in a position to reach a decision on de-delegation by 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys outlined the implications on Primary Schools should Secondary Schools not be in a position to make their decision. He confirmed that information would be circulated to Secondary Schools later this week.</p> <p>Mr. Bragger circulated a document "Funding for Trade Union Support"; Academies would be given the opportunity to buy into the service which could reduce the risk of employment tribunals. Mrs.</p>	

	<p>Sheehy spoke in support of Mr. Bragger; Mr. Bragger confirmed that at meetings with Academy Head Teachers or Chairs of Governors, they had indicated that they would use the service. There was a formula specifying the number of Members entitled to release time. It would only relate to schools in the system as part of the de-delegation or those buying into it.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that Maintained Primary and Maintained Secondary representatives would be entitled to vote at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012. With regard to the decision making process, Members were of the view that a decision should be taken annually.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that Secondary representatives would be in a position to vote on de-delegation at the 4<sup>th</sup> December meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys confirmed that all Primary Schools had received the de-delegation information and this would be forwarded to Secondary Schools in due course. Special Schools cannot de-delegate but the details can be forwarded to them for information purposes.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the details be forwarded to all Secondary Schools and Academies for their information.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the information be received and a meeting be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 to enable a decision on de-delegation of funding to take place.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted and noted.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>Ms. Lomas referred to a meeting she had recently attended at North Tyneside in respect of integrated services and funding issues. Two schools were pathfinder schools and none had progressed further on SEN budgets than Walsall. She requested</p>	

	<p>information on funding to cover certain costs, in particular in relation to medical issues and whether the medical profession could contribute towards this.</p> <p>It was agreed that a special educational needs update be submitted to the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.</p>	Dan Mortiboys
<p><b>11.</b> <b>9.10.12</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Mr. Mortiboys referred to an e-mail received from Alison Bruton, Queen Mary's High School relating to the fact that the school was a listed building; he had informed the school that it could be used although we had not chosen to do so. Reference was also made to vacancies for Academy Members on the Forum and she had expressed an interest in that.</p>	Dan Mortiboys to inform Alison Bruton that she should request other Academies on the selection of a representative on the Forum
<p><b>12.</b> <b>9.10.12</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, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at 4.00 p.m. at Barr Beacon School, Old Hall Lane, Aldridge, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.00 p.m.