

## Schools Forum

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 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. K. Whittlestone  
Mr. G. Crowther  
Mrs. W. Smith  
Mrs. B.E. Westwood  
Mrs. G. Healy  
Mr. J. Bonhomme  
Ms. M. Yates  
Mr. F. Hodgkinson  
Mr. B. Powell  
Mr. E. Loft (Substitute)

**In Attendance:-** Mrs. K. Grandison - Children's Services, Walsall MBC  
Mrs. D. Morris - Education Finance, Walsall MBC  
Mr. L. Haynes - Education Finance, Walsall MBC

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b> <b>13.1.15</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Dame Brennan, Mr. Allman, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Ison, Ms. Harnisch, Mr. Orlik, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Bragger - Mr. Loft substituted for Mr. Bragger.	
<b>2.</b> <b>13.1.15</b>	<b>Minutes - 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
<b>3.</b> <b>13.1.15</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>  Item 9 - Paragraph (2) Mrs. Coles asked for information on the issues to be benchmarked and the method proposed.	



	<p>The Chairman stated that a costed proposal would be required before its submission to PNS and WASH.</p> <p>Item 15 - School Admissions Funding - (2). No response had been received to date from the Education Funding Agency on this matter.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That additional information be submitted to the next meeting of Schools Forum setting out the full range of duties of the Schools Admissions Service.</p> <p>Item 17 - Local Government Pension Scheme - past service costs.</p> <p>Mrs. Coles requested information on the cost to each school on the process for recovering past service costs.</p>	<p>Lynda Poole to action</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes to action</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chairman</b></p> <p>There were no late items for introduction by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</b></p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>SEN update</b></p> <p>Mrs. Grandison informed Schools Forum that the first stage of consultation in respect of a review of special educational needs provision had been completed. A report would be submitted to Cabinet in February, 2015 seeking approval to the proposals to enable statutory consultation to begin and it was hoped that implementation on proposals could commence in September, 2015.</p> <p>The Secretary of State would be requested to earmark some of the funding for capital works.</p>	

	<p>Mrs. Morris informed Schools Forum that the Education Funding Agency had rejected the request to increase the number of high needs places. More detailed feedback from the EFA was expected late January.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed concern that the primary sector had lost 40 places and should this trend continue as the older children carried on through the system, primary would continue to lose place allocations.</p> <p>Mrs. Morris stated that the Local Authority could still agree to fund the places but this would need to be from the existing funding.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the update be noted.</p>	<p>Karen Grandison to update March meeting</p>
<p><b>7. 13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Final Schools Funding Formula for 2015/16</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>In response to points raised, Mr. Haynes stated that school improvement funding was allocated from the LA block and would be monitored by the Director of Children's Services.</p> <p>After consideration it was,</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That Schools Forum agree that their preferred option for the distribution of additional funding was the option based on AWPU; the level of allocation was endorsed and the relevant 2015/16 Schools Funding Formula Proforma be recommended to the Director of Children's Services, Cabinet and the Education Funding Agency;</p> <p>(2) That Schools Forum note and endorse that Walsall Council would continue to look for ways to ensure surpluses were prevented and that where surpluses arose, Walsall Council would look at ways within regulations to deploy surpluses as fast as possible.</p>	<p>Lloyd Haynes to ascertain whether DWP and Benefits Service could provide information on pupils eligible for free school meals</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes to action</p>

<b>8. 13.1.15</b>	<p><b>Approval of Early Years Central Expenditure</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That Schools Forum approve Table 1 of the report to form the basis for Early Years Central Expenditure for the 2015/16 financial year.</p>	Dawn Morris
<b>9. 13.1.15</b>	<p><b>Report on 2 year old capital expenditure</b></p> <p>The Forum noted that this item had been withdrawn and would be submitted to the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.</p>	Dawn Morris
<b>10. 13.1.15</b>	<p><b>Dates for future meetings 2015/16</b></p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>(1) That, subject to availability of the venue identified, the timetable for meetings of the Forum be agreed for the year as follows, the meetings to be held at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 (Summer)  Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 (Autumn)  Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 (Autumn)  Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 (Spring)</p> <p>(2) That, in the event of additional meetings proving necessary, provisional dates be agreed as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 (Summer)  Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 (Autumn)  Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 (Spring)  Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 (Spring)</p>	Noted by Members

<p><b>11.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p>That the forward plan of decisions be noted, subject to the inclusion of the following items:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Early Years Funding Formula - Working Group - 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Feedback on admissions service - 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Dates for future meetings - 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2 year old capital expenditure - 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015</p>	<p>To be actioned by:-</p> <p>Lloyd Haynes</p> <p>Lynda Poole</p> <p>Glenys Ensor</p> <p>Dawn Morris</p>
<p><b>12.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Late items to be introduced by the Chair</b></p> <p>Schools Forum requested that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Mortiboys thanking him for his many years of service on Schools Forum.</p>	<p>Actioned by Glenys Ensor</p>
<p><b>13.</b> <b>13.1.15</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence submitted.</p>	
<p><b>14.</b> <b>13.1.15</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, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.