

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 14th June, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. J. Baker (Chairman)
Mr. A.F. Cheminais
Mr. D. Brownsword
Mr. G. Crowther
Dame M. Brennan
Jennie Ward (in place of Mrs. Cryan)
Mr. G. Deakin
Mr. S. Onions
Mr. N. Stubbs
Mr. D. Clough

In Attendance:- Ms. J. Taylor (Walsall Children's Services - Serco)
Mr. D. Mortiboys (Walsall MBC)
Mr. D. Harman (Walsall MBC)
Kathy Draper

		Action
1. 14.6.11	Apologies Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mr. S. Flynn, Mr. J. Clarke, Ms. M. Cryan, Mrs. V. Birch, Ms. A. Barker, Mr. F. Hodgkinson, Mrs. M. Robinson and Mr. A. Basi.	
2. 14.6.11	Retirement of Mr. Cheminais The Chair informed the Forum that this meeting would be Mr. Cheminais last meeting as a Member of the Schools Forum. The Chair and the Forum Members wished to record their thanks for all the help and input Mr. Cheminais had given throughout his numerous years service on the Forum and wished him well with his future.	
3. 14.6.11	Minutes - 29th March, 2011	The minutes of the meeting held on 29 th March, 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

<p>4. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>5. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>There were no items for consideration in the private session.</p>	
<p>6. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Urgency Sub-Committee - 24th May, 2011</p>	<p>The minutes of the Urgency Sub-Committee held on 24th May, 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<p>7. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Spending of contingency money 2011/12</p> <p>The Chair advised the Forum that this matter had been dealt with at the Urgency Sub-Committee meeting held on 24th May, 2011.</p>	
<p>8. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Review of Schools Forum membership</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Mrs. Taylor presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.</p> <p>In conclusion, Julie Taylor reported that this review had been brought about as a result of the newest Schools Forum Regulations and sought to bring the Forum's membership up-to-date. Furthermore, the review also incorporated Academies into the Forum membership. In addition, Julie suggested that she felt it would be prudent to review the Schools Forum membership bi-annually in view of the financially turbulent times ahead.</p> <p>Following various questions from Members, Julie clarified the process whereby Mrs. Ensor would be</p>	

	<p>contacting schools in the near future to seek nominations and instigate a ballot process for selecting Members.</p> <p>The Chair commented that he felt the membership should be more explicit in relation to Academies which should include brackets saying 'all phases'.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Schools Forum endorse the Local Authority's revised Constitution for the Schools Forum in compliance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations, 2010.</p>	<p>Glenys Ensor/Julie Taylor to implement</p>
<p>9. 14.6.11</p>	<p>The Pupil Premium for Looked After Children</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein and in doing so, advised that the report was for information only.</p> <p>Julie stated that when the report was approved, she would send out to all schools for their information.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children be circulated to all schools and out-of Borough providers for information.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor</p>
<p>10. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Standards Fund Grant Payments 2010-11</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.</p> <p>The Schools Forum Members expressed their discontent at the situation they now found themselves in as a result of the Government spending cuts. As a result of this, the Schools Forum wished to write to the Education Secretary and convey their concerns and discontent directly to him.</p> <p>Following lengthy deliberations on this item, the Chair recommended that it might be prudent to</p>	

	<p>revisit the recommendation in the future in view of the Forum's feelings on the matter.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That at the appropriate time, money be reviewed and used if necessary as part of the DSG, however, if the shortfall cannot be accommodated in this matter, then the Forum agrees that the remaining sums in the 2010/11 Standards Fund be earmarked towards the cash shortfall of £1.03 million.</p>	Julie Taylor to note
<p>11. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Review of Rateable Value of Schools 2010-15</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Schools Forum adopt a collaborative approach as the savings will be re-cycled to all schools.</p>	Julie Taylor to note
<p>12. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Walsall response to the School Funding Consultation - May 2011</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.</p> <p>Furthermore, Julie informed the Forum that she had already consulted the Chair and Vice-Chair on Walsall's response to this matter.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the consultation response be noted.</p>	Julie Taylor to note
<p>13. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Serco profit margin</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Darrell Harman presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.</p>	

	<p>The Chair wished to know if Serco had hit the profit share margin in the past. Darrell informed the Forum that he would like to take legal advice before disclosing such information as he was unsure of the implications of doing so. Darrell agreed to report back to the next meeting on this matter.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	Darrell Harman to note
<p>14. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Resolution of Audit Committee - 12th April, 2011</p> <p>A report for information was submitted.</p> <p>The Schools Forum Members asked Julie Taylor if she felt Grant Thornton's recommendations were a fair representation of the present position. Julie stated that she did not necessarily agree with the findings of the Grant Thornton report. The general consensus of the Forum was that schools had performed well with school balances given the constraints that had been placed on schools. Julie Taylor reported that she would be distributing this information to all Head Teachers in the near future.</p>	Julie Taylor to note
<p>15. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Annual report of Schools Forum for the period 15th June, 2010 to 29th March, 2011</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>In relation to 32.1 of the report, the Chair stated that he would like it to say 'school to school support' and also that there should be an amendment in reference to the secondary element to read 'funding for secondary schools would be delegated on the basis of £4,336 per school plus an allocation made on the basis of departure from five A to C's in English and Maths'.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That subject to the amendments, the annual report be agreed.</p>	Julie Taylor to note

<p>16. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>In relation to the Early Years Funding Sub-Group, Julie Taylor sought three nominations from amongst the Forum membership to this Group.</p> <p>The Chair commented that he would like to keep the Serco report on for the next meeting. Dan Mortiboys reported that Julie Black was leaving the Council's employment and would be seeking a suitable replacement.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Kathy Draper, David Brownsword and Jennie Ward be nominated to the Early Years Funding Sub-Group.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor to note</p>
<p>17. 14.6.11</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None received.</p>	
<p>18. 14.6.11</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, 27th September, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.</p>	

The meeting terminated at 5.15 p.m.