

Schools Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 27th September, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall

Present:- Mr. S. Flynn (Chairman)
Mr. J. Baker (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. M. Vlahakis
Mrs. C. Draper
Mr. D. Brownsword
Mr. R.C. Yeomans
Mr. G. Crowther
Dame M. Brennan
Mr. J.P. Clarke
Ms. J. Ward
Ms. P. Hunt
Ms. M. Sharratt
Mr. E. Gee
Mrs. M. Yates
Mrs. M. Woodcock
Mr. F. Hodgkinson
Mr. D. Clough
Ms. A. Lofthouse
Mrs. M. Sheehy (Observer)

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

		Action
1. 27.9.11	<p>Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman</p> <p>Mr. Baker informed the Forum that he was due to retire from teaching at the end of the year and would, therefore, not wish to take up the appointment of Chairman.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr. S. Flynn be appointed Chairman of the Forum for a period of twelve months.</p> <p>Mr. Flynn in the Chair</p> <p>Mr. Flynn thanked Mr. Baker for his work on Schools Forum.</p>	

	<p>Election of Vice-Chairman</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That Mr. J. Baker be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Forum until the end of 2011 with Mr. M. Vlahakis shadowing and taking over as Vice-Chairman on Mr. Baker's retirement.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to changes in membership that had occurred following the review of membership of Schools Forum and the Members present introduced themselves at the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Mrs. M. Robinson and Ms. J. Morgan.</p>	
<p>3. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Minutes - 14th June, 2011</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June, 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>
<p>4. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Standards Fund Grant Payments 2010-11</p> <p>Julie Taylor confirmed that, to date, no correspondence had been forwarded to the Education Secretary in respect of spending cuts.</p> <p>Serco Profit Margin</p> <p>The Chairman indicated that information could be gained via a Freedom of Information request from an individual. This was no longer considered necessary in view of the cessation of the contract.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor</p>

<p>5. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the item on the agenda relating to correspondence be considered in private session in view of the confidential nature of the business contained therein and in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended) and at the relevant point in the meeting, the public present be excluded.</p>	
<p>6. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Transforming Learning Interest Repayments</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>After discussion it was,</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the total revenue interest of £4,442.87 be used to offset some of the standards fund deficit;</p> <p>(2) That the capital re-imburement contained in the report be noted.</p>	
<p>7. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to the use of 28th September, 2010 for the 2010/11 DSG outturn;</p> <p>(2) That approval be given to the use of 27th September, 2011 for the 2011/12 DSG budget statement;</p> <p>(3) That Schools Forum note that Grant Thornton had made no adverse statements regarding the 2010/11 DSG expenditure;</p>	

	<p>(4) That Schools Forum note the very high level of accuracy in forecasting pupil numbers.</p>	
<p>8. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Free Early Years Entitlement - Funding arrangements in respect of the Transition period</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Julie Taylor enlarged on the contents of the report and referred to the meeting of the Sub-Group that had taken place on 5th July, 2011 to discuss this matter. She confirmed that there would be no changes to the formula but there would be changes to the process in order to meet parent's entitlement. In the event of the process being agreed, communication would be forwarded to schools during this week.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the Forum agree in principle that funding should follow the child through the transitional period;</p> <p>(2) That the Forum agree that the transitional period in which financial adjustments should be made is three weeks;</p> <p>(3) That where a child attends only one setting, then the nominated provider receive the full termly funding;</p> <p>(4) That where a child attends two settings during the transitional period, of which one is a maintained provider, the maintained provider receive funding for the actual hours of attendance and the relevant PVI setting receive the balance of the entitlement funding, up to a maximum of 15 hours per week;</p> <p>(5) That the apportioned funding methodology and transition arrangements be adopted in the 2012/13 financial and academic years.</p>	

<p>9. 27.9.11</p>	<p>School Funding Reform Consultation Document</p> <p>A report was submitted.</p> <p>Members were invited to comment on the draft responses and were reminded that the closing date for submission for the document to Government Office was 11th October, 2011.</p> <p>The Forum considered the draft responses in respect of the questionnaire as well as the explanations provided by officers.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the draft response to the consultation on school funding reform - proposals for a fairer system, be noted and used as the response to the Government's paper.</p>	<p>Julie Taylor</p>
<p>10. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Spending of contingency money 2011/12 (School to School Support) - Standing Item</p> <p>The Forum noted that there was no issue to be considered at this meeting.</p>	
<p>11. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was submitted.</p> <p>The Chairman informed Members that Children's Services would be reverting back to Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council with school's finances reverting back on 1st April, 2012. The Forum thanked Julie Taylor and her team for the work carried out in respect of school's finances.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the Forward Plan be agreed as set out, subject to the cancellation of the meeting due to take place on 18th October, 2011.</p>	

<p>12. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)</p> <p>It was agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended) and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.</p>	
<p>13. 27.9.11</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Brownhills School</p> <p>Correspondence from the Trustees of the School was submitted:-</p> <p>(see annexed)</p> <p>Mr. Hodgkinson (Governor Representative and Governor of Brownhills School) gave the Forum a brief explanation of the matter.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr. Hodgkinson for presenting the information.</p> <p>Mr. Hodgkinson had declared an interest as a Governor of the School and left the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the Forum that this matter had been presented to an earlier meeting.</p> <p>Ms. J. Taylor informed the Forum that some children would be in receipt of bus passes.</p> <p>It was agreed that the request from the Trustees of Brownhills School for additional funding in respect of the provision of two coaches to transport pupils from the Sneyd School or catchment area to Brownhills School be rejected.</p> <p>(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)</p>	

14. 27.9.11	Date and time of next meeting It was NOTED that the next meeting of Schools Forum would be held on Tuesday, 8 th November, 2011 at 4.00 p.m. at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall.	
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The meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.