

London Borough of Lambeth

Schools Forum

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Lambeth Academy, Elms Road London, SW4 9ET; **Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 18:00.**

Present: School Members

Head Teachers

Alexandra Hardy (AH)	Henry Cavendish
Richard Thornhill (RT) (Chair)	Loughborough Federation of Schools
Magdalin Babiker-Clancy (MB-C)	Lambeth Academy
Jan Shadick (JS)	Lambeth Academy
Jayne Mitchell (JM)	St Andrews CE
Chris Ashley-Jones (CA-J)	Hitherfield
Nick Butler (NB)	St Gabriel's College
Rachel Hedley (RH)	Maytree
David Boyle (DB)	Dunraven

Governors

Matthew Green (MGr)	Telferscot School
Kate Mason (KM)	Jessop & Stockwell Federation
Trudy Lister (TL)	Sunnyhill
Roger Bowdery (RB)	Bishop Thomas Grant

Non School Members

Raymond Smith (RS)	Pre-School Learning Alliance
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Cabinet Member

Cllr Imogen Walker

Officers

Cathy Twist (CT)	Director - Education, Learning & Skills
Nilesh Jethwa (NJ)	Head of Finance
Charlene Whyte (CW)	Senior Accountant
Dominique Johnston-Franklin (DJ-F)	Accountant

Observers

Vinay Gupta (VG)	St Gabriel's College
Jeremy Baker (JB)	Rosendale Primary School
Geri Cullen (GC)	

Minutes: CW

1. Apologies for Absence & Welcome

- 1.1 Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves, welcomed new members and noted apologies from the following: Marcia Hosain (MH), James Robinson (JR), Maksud Gangat (MGa)

2. Draft minutes from Schools Forum meeting held on the 14th January 2015

Resolved to agree the minutes as true and accurate record

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Chair advised that he will be hosting a working group meeting on 9th October to consider the future arrangements for distributing additional SEN funding to schools with disproportionate levels of SEN. The working group will report to the Schools Forum in January 2016.

4. Membership

4.1 The forum considered the following nominations:

- David Boyle from Dunraven School has been nominated to stand in the vacant Secondary Head Teacher position.
- Roger Bowdery from Bishop Thomas Grant has been nominated to stand in the vacant Secondary Governor position.
- Marylin Ross, Headteacher at Michael Tippett has been nominated to stand in the vacant Special School Head Teacher position.
- Paul Cox from Lambeth College has been nominated to stand in the vacant 16-19 Non-School position.

- 4.2 RH highlighted that this meeting was her last as she had served 2 terms of membership on the Schools Forum. RH advised that the nursery Heads have nominated Glenda King from Elthelred Nursery School and Children Centre to stand in the Nursery Head Teacher position. The Chair thanked RH for her valuable contribution to the Schools Forum over the past 8 years.

Resolved to accept all nominations for membership.

5. Register of Interests and Declaration of New Interests

- 5.1 Members were reminded to sign new declarations for the 2015-16 financial year.

Action:

- ***All members submit completed and submit new declarations for the 2015-16 financial year to CW***

6. Forward Plan

- 6.1 The Chair highlighted the items listed on the School Forum Forward Plan and explained that the plan was intended to give members the opportunity to engage the wider school community in future decisions and provide sufficient time for proposals to be considered before decisions have to be made.

7. 2016-17 School Funding Arrangements

7.1 The Chair advised members that this was the opportunity to suggest any changes to the formula factors or redistribute funding between factors in preparation for the 2016-17 Budgets. NJ highlighted to members that it is likely that in the DfE will begin consulting on National Funding Formula changes for 2017-18 so any changes to 2016-17 are likely to be for one year only. There was a general consensus for a steady state for funding for schools in preparation for any national changes in 2017-18.

Resolved to make no changes to the Schools Funding Formula for 2016-17.

7.2 Members considered the current Growth funding criteria in Appendix 14.1. It was agreed to make no changes to the eligibility criteria for 2016-17 but observed the following updates needed to be made:

- a. Strategic Director of Commission should be replaced with Director Education, Learning and Skills.
- b. References to Permanent expansions are no longer applicable as the DfE 2016-17 School Funding guidance published in July 2015 suggests that Growth Fund should not be used to fund permanent expansions; instead the school's pupil numbers should be adjusted accordingly in the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).

7.3 CW explained that this method of funding permanent expansions was similar to the Authority's historic method of funding "ghost pupils" in growing schools and that the LA would need to request to vary the pupil numbers within the APT to fund permanent expansions.

Resolved to accept the revisions to the 2016-17 Growth Fund Criteria in respect of Permanent Expansions and Director title.

Resolved to agree for pupil numbers to be varied within the APT to enable funding for permanently expanding schools and academies.

7.4 Members considered the current Falling Rolls criteria in Appendix 14.2. It was agreed to make no changes to the eligibility criteria for 2016-17 but decided the following should be added to the Exceptions conditions: "Funding Proposals should contain a clear exit strategy outlining year-on-year tapering of funding and a final end date for financial support"

Resolved to accept the revisions to the 2016-17 Falling Rolls Criteria in respect of Exceptions and maintain the budget of £585K.

7.5 Members considered the current Split-site criteria in Appendix 14.3. It was agreed to make the following changes to the eligibility criteria for 2016-17:

- a. The sites are separated by a main road, within the Lambeth geographic boundary, and necessitating movement between sites of staff and /or pupils during the school day.
- b. Additionally both sites must have the same Unique Reference Number (URN) and DfE Establishment Number.

Resolved to accept the revisions to the 2016-17 Split-site Criteria.

- 7.6 RH queried whether nursery schools would be included in any decision for applying for exceptions to the MFG. CW clarified that exceptions would mainly be in relation to premises factors and that as the Early Years Funding Formula does not include premises factors we would be unlikely to apply for exceptions to the MFG for nursery schools and PVI's.

Resolved to not to submit any applications for exceptions to the MFG for 2016-17.

8. Early Years Sub-Group (EYSG)

- 8.1 The Chair highlighted that the EYSG was a subset of the Schools Forum but currently the working relationship between the forum and sub-group seemed ineffective. There was a general lack of knowledge from School Forum members about the function of the EYSG. RS who is a member of both the EYSG and Forum gave an overview of the function of the EYSG.
- 8.2 It was agreed that the EYSG required representation from Primary and Nursery School Heads from the Schools Forum. AH volunteered to sit on the EYSG and it was suggested that when Glenda King takes up her position as Nursery Head representative; she should also sit on the EYSG.
- 8.3 The Chair suggested that the minutes to the EYSG should also be forwarded to Schools Forum members.

Action:

- ***Alexandra Hardy and Glenda King to join the EYSG***
- ***The Chair of the EYSG (Kathryn Shaw) be invited to future Forum meetings to report back on EYSG recommendations***
- ***For EYSG minutes to be circulated to Schools Forum members.***

9. Early Years Pupil Premium (for noting)

- 9.1 AH queried how PVI's were able to collect eligibility information for EYPP given that schools struggle to obtain this information for their pupils parents. DJ-F advised that PVI's tended to collect the information they required on the initial nursery application form.

Resolved to note the 2015-16 Early Years Pupil Premium allocations.

10. Alternative Provision Pupil Premium Grant funding arrangements (for noting)

10.1 Members noted the content of the meeting papers for this item.

11. Looked After Pupil Premium (for noting)

11.1 AH queried how PVI's were able to collect eligibility information for EYPP given that schools struggle to obtain this information for their pupils' parents. DJ-F advised that PVI's tended to collect the information they required on the initial nursery application form.

12. Locally Managed Schools (LMS) Balances (for noting)

12.1 NJ gave an overview of the 2014-15 year-end position for the LMS balances. NJ highlighted that 5 schools were in deficit and that the LMS balances had increased by £2m

12.2 DB queried whether the Authority collected information about committed balances for schools, particularly for those schools whose surplus balances exceed 5% of their budget share for secondaries and 8% for Primaries. NJ clarified that the Authority no longer operated a surplus balance mechanism and therefore did not obtain information about committed balances for schools.

13. AOB and future dates

13.1 The Chair advised that he had liaised with Claire Cobalt from Schools HR regarding the cost of School Trade Union facility time. RT advised that Claire is working with Heads Council on a proposal for School Trade Union facility time to be recharged to schools; as the Authority would no longer be funding this service.

13.2 The Chair acknowledged that although this subject has been brought to the Forum before that there seemed to be a strong case for reviewing whether it could be de-delegated if recommended by Heads Council.

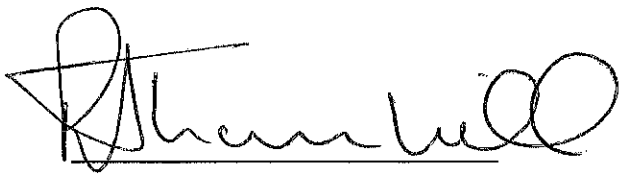
13.3 CA-J advised that he would report back from Heads Council once a decision had been made. Cllr Walker said that she welcomed that this be reviewed by the forum of the Head Council had a strong view on the arrangements for School Trade Union facility time

14. Appendices

14.1 All appendices were noted accordingly.

Next meeting date: 12th January 2016

Signed by Chair:



Date:

12th Jan 2016

Richard Thornhill