

London Borough of Lambeth

Schools Forum

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Hitherfield Primary School, London SW16 2JG; **Tuesday 19th May 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
James Robinson (JR)	Immanuel & St Andrew's

Governors

Maksud Gangat (MGa)	Orchard School
Matthew Green (MGr)	Telferscot School
Kate Mason (KM)	Jessop & Stockwell Federation
Trudy Lister (TL)	Sunnyhill

Non School Members

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

Officers

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

Observers

Vinay Gupta (VG)	St Gabriel's College
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Minutes: CW

1. Apologies for Absence & Welcome

- 1.1 Chair welcomed members and noted apologies from the following: Rachel Hedley (RH); Cllr Imogen Walker, Marcia Hosain (MH)
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed back CW and on behalf of the forum thanked Nicola Drito-Andi for her valued contribution while covering for CW over the past year.

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 Richard Leonard (RL) had asked the Chair to confirm that members were happy with the accuracy of the wording of item 10 in the minutes. Members were satisfied that the minutes reflected the discussion.

4. Membership

- 4.1 JR stepped down as Chair. Nominations were received for RT to succeed as Chair and CA-J to become vice-chair. These nominations were agreed by members of the forum. RT thanked JR for his 3 year term as Chair to the forum.

- 4.2 Vacancies:

The forum has the following member vacancies:

- VA Primary Governor;
- Community Primary Governor;
- VA Secondary Governor;
- Foundation or Community Secondary Headteacher
- Special School Headteacher
- Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher
- 14-19 Partnership

- 4.3 It was agreed for CW to approach the Governors Forum for suitable nominations. CT said she would approach Lambeth College to see whether they would consider taking up the 14-19 Partnership role.

- 4.4 JR mentioned that the Headteachers who would be eligible for the Foundation or Community Secondary Headteacher role have already declined to join the forum. However there are two Academy Secondary Headteachers that are quite keen to be members. Members discussed whether, given the proportion of secondary academies in Lambeth, it was worthwhile to continue with vacant roles or have additional academy representation in the hope that they could fairly represent the secondary sector as a whole. It was agreed to appoint an additional academy Headteacher representative.

Actions:

- ***CW to approach the Governors Forum for suitable nominations***
- ***CW to approach RL to determine whether he would like to serve another term on the forum***
- ***CW to approach the Head of City Heights and Dunraven to see whether they would still like to join.***

- ***CT to approach Lambeth College to see whether they would consider taking up the 14-19 Partnership role***
- ***CT to approach The Livity School to see whether they would consider taking up the Special school Headteacher role***

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. 2015-16 Schools Budgets (for noting)

6.1 NJ gave an overview of the 2015-16 Schools Budget and explained how that for the first time sponsored academies were now included in the Lambeth Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. Members noted how this change could have an adverse impact on the DSG if the sponsored academies and free-schools were expanding; this would potentially result in a £3m pressure on the DSG.

6.2 Generally there was little change to individual school budgets as the formula unit values had been kept static and schools were protected by the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

6.3 RT raised a point about potentially funding vacant places through the growth fund where some schools are unable to fill all the planned places in September. CT explained that there are difficulties in estimating the required places due to social-economic changes in Lambeth. NJ highlighted that although some schools are unable to fill the bulge classes in the first year, the costs of setting up the classes are the same as if they were full. Additionally for stability, those schools require certainty of funding for enable them to deliver the classes need.

6.4 RT reminded members that they had previously discussed refining the process for allocating additional High Needs funding to schools with a disproportionate number of pupils with high needs (as identified by a statement or Health Education Plan) and suggested the need to set up a working group to carry out modelling prior to 2016-17.

Action:

- ***RT to set-up a working group, representative of each school phase, to consider the allocation of additional High Needs funding to schools with a disproportionate number of pupils with high needs to enable schools to meet the first £6K of high needs support per pupil.***

Resolved to note and accept the 2015-16 Schools Budget allocations.

7. Section 251 Budget Statement (for noting)

- 7.1 NJ presented the Section 251 Budget Statement which details how the DSG is allocated to form Lambeth's Education budget. NJ explained how this is produced as part of a return to the Department of Education. It was highlighted to members that lines 1.4.5 to 1.4.10 detailed centrally retained budgets.

Resolved to note and accept the 2015-16 Section 251 Budget statement.

8. Split-Site funding criteria

- 8.1 NJ explained that a query had been raised by Durand Academy as to whether, under the current Split-site funding eligibility criteria, they were eligible for Split-site funding for their site in West Sussex.
- 8.2 Members reviewed the current Split-site funding eligibility criteria in detail but agreed that Durand Academy did not meet the criteria that specified the need for "movement between sites of staff and/or pupils during the school day". Members felt that it was not feasible for staff and pupils to regularly move between the Lambeth based site and West Sussex based site during the school day. Therefore no adjustments would be made in 2016-17 in relation to 2015-16 Split-site funding for Durand Academy.
- 8.3 The discussion extended to debate whether Lambeth schools federated with schools across boarder would be entitled to Split-site funding. There was a consensus that only Lambeth pupils should benefit from Split-site funding and that perhaps the criteria should be amended for 2016-17 to clarify this.

Action:

- ***To review the Split-site funding criteria prior to 2016-17 budget preparation in relation to the Lambeth geographic boundary.***

9. Falling Rolls protection

- 9.1 At the January meeting, as part of agreeing the Falling Rolls criteria for 2015/16 the Forum agreed in exceptional instances it will consider funding schools with falling rolls which are at risk even though they may be judged RI or inadequate. This was to be on the basis that a business case is presented to the Forum for voting.
- 9.2 Prior to this item being taken, NG declared an invested interest in this item and subsequently NJ presented an overview of the business case submitted by St Gabriel's College.
- 9.3 St Gabriel's College (previously known as Charles Edward Brookes) was earmarked to be rebuilt as part of the BSF project. As part of the rebuilt, the LA requested that the Governors reduce the forms of entry to 3 from 5 so that the school could be accommodated on one of its existing sites whilst the new site was built. However the BSF funding was pulled which meant a dramatic fall in admissions as parents

became concerned about the future of the school. In the interim the school fell into RI. The school is now part of the EFA's new build program, but consistent delays over the last 2-3 years primarily due to the EFA not being able to find a builder for the program has meant school being in a very vulnerable position right at the moment that standards are improving and on the onset of a rebuild.

- 9.4 The Schools Forum recognised that it makes little sense effectively close the school on funding basis where there will be a need over the next few years for secondary places as the primary place expansion flows through the system.
- 9.5 The Council has made it very clear that it will not support the school from its own funding as the delays on rebuild are not of its own making. Without interim funding whist the rebuild is completed the school budget will not be viable.
- 9.6 The SF members had a long & considered debate but recognised the uniqueness of the situation and the importance of focusing on outcomes. Members voted unanimously to approve a funding request to support the School in the current financial year however forum members agreed that where funding has been allocated on the basis of a business case, it would be valid for the financial year in question and there should be no presumption of continuous funding.
- 9.7 JR highlighted that at the time of budget setting a school may be classified as RI but it is feasible that during the year they are revisited by Ofsted and become good and queried whether they would then trigger Growth funding. NJ explained that although schools budgets cannot be adjusted in-year that the Growth funding was a centrally retained budget and can be responsive to in-year changes.

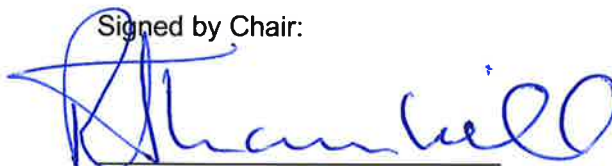
Resolved to agree for the LA to deploy Growth Funding to St Gabriel's College on the basis of the business case presented for 2015-16.

10. AOB and future dates

None

Next meeting date: 29th September 2015

Signed by Chair:



Date:

29th Sept '15.

Richard Thornhill

