

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Hitherfield Primary School, Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SW16 2JQ on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 18:00pm – 20.00pm

School Forum Members:

<u>Schools:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Governors:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Chris Ashley–Jones (CAJ) Hitherfield	Present	Vacant	
Nick Butler (NB) St. Gabriel’s College	Apologies	Ray Smith (RS) Pre-School Alliance	Present
Alison Moller (AM) Julian’s Primary School	Present	Maksud Gangat (MG) Orchard Primary	Apologies
Rachel Hedley (RH) Lambeth Nursery Schools’ Federation	Present	Vacant	
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven School	Present	Charles Asher (CA) GHF	Absent
Mark Jordan (MJ) (PCA)	Absent	Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Absent
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra	Present	Carena Hall (CH) Immanuel & St Andrews CE Primary	Apologies
Chris Toye (CT) Wyvern Federation	Present	Vacant	
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew’s Primary	Absent	Vacant	
Kate Atkins (KA) Great North Wood Education Trust	Apologies		
Coral Hayes Ruskin House School	Absent		
<u>Officers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Observers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent

Cathy Twist (CTw) Director - ELS	Present	Sarah Tomlinson (ST) NUT/NEU	Absent
Kathryn Shaw (KS) School Quality Improvement Lead	Present	Christine Golding (CG) GMB Union	Absent
Bunmi Idowu (BI) Early Years	Apologies	Vinay Gupta (VG) St. Gabriel's College	Absent
Tim Gibson (TG) Finance Consultant - Children's Finance	Present	Cllr Jenny Brathwaite	Absent
David Goldring (DG) Accountant- Finance	Absent	Rachel Harrison Assistant Director Children's Finance	Present
		David Tully (DT) Finance	Present

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

CAJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. A warm welcome was extended to Rachel Hedley – Executive Headteacher of the Lambeth Nursery Schools Federation.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Muksud Gangat, Carena Hall, Kate Atkins and Nick Butler.

CAJ informed SF members that there had been a late change to the Agenda. Item 6 was removed. A more comprehensive paper will be brought back to the meeting on the 14th January 2020.

2. **Membership and Register of Interests and Declaration of Business Interests**

CAJ informed members that Matthew Green had completed his second term of office. CAJ thanked Matthew for his time and commitment over the years.

CAJ informed members that Paul Steward had decided to withdraw his application.

It was noted that Charles Asher representing the GHF had not been attending SF meetings for over a year. CAJ will write to Charles regarding his attendance and disqualification. **ACTION: CAJ**

CAJ approached the Lambeth Schools Partnership (LSP) regarding the filling of vacancies, but with little success. CAJ will approach headteachers directly and the Governors' Forum for assistance in filling the SF vacancies. **ACTION: CAJ**

3. **Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 13th November 2019 and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.

Matters arising

- Page 2 There was little success with the LSP, so CAJ will approach the Governors' Forum. Any SF member that knows of any Governors who would be interested in joining the SF to please email CAJ.

4. **Growth Fund**

TG informed that £680K was put in the Growth Fund for 2019/20. Schools adding additional classes would get £20K per class from the Growth Fund.

The schools expanding next year are Paxton, Woodmansterne, St. Leonard's, Julian's, Dunraven and Harris Clapham. There is no proposal to keep a contingency for unforeseen growth as was the case in previous years.

Some schools have already expanded but have still not received their funding. TG asked that SF members review the criteria for expansion and clarified that one of the criteria is that schools must get agreement from the LA in order to expand.

Some schools are reducing their PAN formally or asking for a temporary reduction of Pan, whereas others are requesting that their PAN be raised. Therefore circumstances need to be viewed on a case by case basis. A suggestion was made that the criteria should include a condition that if a school's PAN is reduced then it should not be eligible for growth funding if it subsequently increases its PAN again within a 3 year period.

SF members voted and **agreed** the following recommendations:

- The Schools Forum **agreed** the Growth Fund criteria for 2020/2021 as contained at Appendix 2; subject to a proposed amendment for diseconomies of scale funding being brought to the next meeting
- The Schools Forum **agreed** that schools that are expanding for basic need will receive a fixed amount of £20,000 per additional class that is added. This is set out in para 2.3.

The third recommendation which was put to the SF members was postponed until the next meeting to reflect the financial impact of the amended diseconomies of scale funding criteria. The recommendation was:

- The Schools Forum was requested to agree the allocation of £240K and for the Growth Fund for 2020/21.

5. **Feedback about the consultation on changes to the funding formula**

TG informed that meetings of the sub-group had taken place to see how the Lambeth formula could be moved closer to the NFF. All schools were consulted, but a limited number of responses were received.

One of the SF members raised that only five working days were given to respond, however it was raised at the SF meeting that it would have been reasonable to give 10 working days for a response. For clarification, the consultation was open for 11 days in total of which 6 were full working days. The whole timetable was reviewed and found not to be ideal. It was agreed that things would be done differently in the future. It was pointed out that the reason for the shortened timetable was to allow officers to report to report back to this meeting and had had been set back when the DfE had changed some of the parameters at the time of the previous SF meeting.

There was feedback from one school. It was clarified that the Working Group has also met three times and the SF has reviewed the proposals on schools' behalf on several occasions and so it was felt that overall there had been sufficient consultation and scrutiny of the proposals. There is nothing from the process to suggest anything contrary to what the SF had decided previously.

There has been a response from the DfE which had been shared with the SF members and it does not go against anything that the SF has decided previously. The response is rather disappointing, but does not change anything that the SF has done.

The decisions on the previous recommendations remain the same. TG will report back to schools via the LSP on the outcome of the Consultation and the changes that have been agreed. Feedback will be given and the decisions taken will be reiterated.

7. **AOB**

- Support staff holiday pay – The Head of HR has shared the draft formula with union colleagues and GMB reps have concerns. Discussions are still ongoing. Schools will be informed when the new formula will come into effect and the likely impact.
The new formula will need to be used as of September 2019 and any back pay will need to be agreed. Negotiations are still ongoing. A number of LA are in the same position. Clarity will be sought around issues concerning current costs and fed back to the SF.
- A suggestion was made that SF meetings move to an earlier time of 4pm. SF Members voted and agreed on this proposal. It was agreed that SF meetings would start at the new time of 4pm after March 2020.

8. **Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be on:

Tuesday 14th January 2020 6-8pm

Tuesday 24th March 2020 6-8pm

CAJ kindly offered his school for the SF venue for the above dates.

9. **Education Functions** (Maintained Schools Only)

The Education Services Grant has ceased now. The Grant looked at the cost requirements of services and the school's ability to pay for the services. Currently the LA funds some of the services. The amount agreed in 2019/20 to be contributed by maintained schools was £20.50 per pupil totalling £478K for primary and secondary schools. This changes according to how many students there are and how many academies. It was recommended that the rate be set at £41.00 per commissioned place for special schools (i.e. using a multiplier of 2x the mainstream school per pupil rate). There are 5 maintained Special Schools resulting in the total of £24K being deducted.

Q. Is there any benchmarking? Are Lambeth's costs cheaper or more expensive to other LA?

A. The costs are not formally benchmarked against other LA. Nobody has asked for this to be done before.

Q. Why is the funding the same per pupil for primary and secondary schools?

A. TG checked the regulations and reported that it was a requirement that a single rate be set.

SF Members were asked to consider the continuation of the status quo.

SF members voted and **agreed** the following recommendations:

- The Schools Forum (Maintained School Representatives only) **agreed** to continue to de-delegate £20.50 per pupil for Education Functions for 5-16 year old pupils in primary and secondary schools.
- The Schools Forum (Maintained School Representatives only) **agreed** to de-delegate £41.00 per commissioned place for Education Functions in maintained special schools.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.05pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chris Ashley-Jones

Chair of the School Forum