

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held at Hitherfield Primary School, Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SE5 9RF on Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 18:00pm – 20.00pm

Present: School Forum Members

Schools

Chris Ashley-Jones (CA-J)	Hitherfield
Nick Butler (NB)	St Gabriel's College
Alexandra Hardy (AH)	Henry Cavendish
Glenda King (GK)	Ethelred
David Boyle (DB)	Dunraven School

Governors

Tony Andrews (TA)	Wyvern Federation
Ray Smith (RS)	Pre School Alliance

Officers

Cathy Twist (CT)	Director - Education, Learning & Skills
Nilesh Jethwa (NJ)	Head of Finance
Kathryn Shaw (KS)	Early Years and Out of School Quality Improvement Lead
Bunmi Idowu (BI)	Early Years

Observers

Sarah Tomlinson (ST)	NUT/NEU
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Also attended: **Vinay Gupta** **St. Gabriel's College**

Joe Blacker **PCA**

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & apologies**

CA-J welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received and accepted from: Kate Mason, Rodger Bowdery, Maksud Gangat.

2. Election of a new Chair for the Lambeth Schools Forum

As Richard Thornhill had left in April 2017 elections were held for a new Chair of the Lambeth Schools Forum. CA-J was nominated and seconded for the post.

Resolved : CA-J Ratified as SF Chair

3. Draft minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 18th January 2017

Page 1 - DB pointed out that it was Dunraven School and not Dunraven Academy.

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

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Membership

The membership was reviewed and the current vacancies will be filled at the **Lambeth Schools Partnership** Working Together meeting this Friday. It was unknown whether Jan Shadick had resigned but it was agreed that as she has left her previous role she should be removed from this Forum.

6. Register of Interests and Declaration of New Interests

NJ to update on the system.

7. Schools Forum Forward Plan 2017/18

Page 5 - The Schools Forum Forward Plan. There were no comments or additions to the Forward Plan.

8. National Funding Arrangements 2018/2019

8.2 Review of the 2017/18 Lambeth Schools Funding Formula

The table evidences the effect of the Funding Formula and gives a snapshot for the year. The hard funding formula has been put back until April 2020. There will be two transitional years before this happens.

The 12 factors for the school funding formula were discussed, which are listed together with indicators eg. FSM Ever. Only AWPU funding is a requirement and LAC is not funded.

ACTION: The two De-Delegations, known as Vulnerable Schools Fund and the Trade Union Facilities are to be discussed later in the meeting .

8.3 Changes proposed for 2018/19

Resolved : agreed with the Council's recommendation that the Council is not proposing any changes to the local funding formula.

8.4 Growth Fund

Discussed the change in growth fund regulation has changed. It is specifically designed for bulge classes. Now "ghost pupil" numbers should be included. NJ to provide and update and this item will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Members asked if growth funding will be funded for 30 pupils in primary school NJ discussed, Funding will be given for the pupils in Reception and for next year's Yr1 pupils, on the assumption that there will be 30 pupils. Further discussions regarding bulge classes and by projection and that this is set by The Education Strategy Dept.

ACTION: Clarity was asked for permanent expanding schools which are funded. NJ to explain at the next meeting.

8.5 Falling Rolls Fund

The Schools Forum looked at the falling rolls 2 years ago. The amount of the fund is £585K. It was agreed that the most up to date information would be useful for the Schools Forum to review the criteria for appropriateness and recommend changes or to set the amount of the fund. The decision was deferred to the next meeting as the School Forum agreed the criteria (appendix) for appropriateness but with the modification, but not on the 2017 role. The Schools Forum were happy with the criteria to keep October 2016 and add October 2017 and review the details of the fund at the next meeting.

ACTION: Review the most up to date information and decide the criteria (appendix) for appropriateness and recommend changes or set the amount of the fund.

8.6 Dis-Proportionate SEN Fund

A detailed review was undertaken 2 years ago. It was found that high numbers of pupils with EHC plans caused hardship for a number of schools. The funding must

be targeted at a small number of schools so all schools are not benefitting from it. An average number of EHC plans were viewed and applied to all schools.

Figures previously provided were viewed, and found to inaccurately assess one school. NJ was to recheck the figures.

The High needs block can be increased by 0.5% due to the challenge of meeting the needs of the SEND demands in the borough in 17-18.

The Government will state in December what the future High Needs Block will look like, this may mean that the Schools Forum will need to review the issue. The High Needs Block is overspending and the priority will be Special Schools and looking at the Top Up allocation. The decision for changes needs to be made before December so the top slice can be moved back into the formula. The list of money allocation will be reviewed after the October census and the data will need to be received from schools and be ready before December.

Resolved: Agreed to leave the disproportionate SEN Fund as in 17-18.

9. Early Years Funding Arrangements 2018/19

Discussed by members the focus has been on the take up of 30hrs. The DfE suggested 2,100 pupils are eligible for the 30hrs provision, but only 800 applications are in the HMRC system, of those 691 have been approved. There have been issues with the HMRC system crashing and the onerous conditions put in by the HMRC.

The DfE are confident the take up for places will start and the incentive is being pushed, it will also get parents back into the workforce.

Lambeth are working with system providers, but the PVI's are not taking up the offer due to the administrative burden. Primary schools are reporting it as a logistical nightmare as additional staff need to be recruited.

ACTION: The Head of Early Years will prepare a timetable for a review of the implementation and arrangements for 2018/19, this will be produced at the next meeting.

10. De-Delegation 2018/19

The de-delegation has to be reviewed annually for Trade Union Facilities and their time, a backfill fund for time taken for TU duties and schools are reimbursed for backfill.

Resolved : Agreed TUF De delegation for 18-19

11. De-Delegation 2017/18 ; Vulnerable Schools Fund

The Lambeth Schools Partnership (LSP) was launched in May. It is a subscription provision focusing on school improvement and resources. It has an elected board, which will oversee the educational standards and the range of support for schools. There are representatives from each of the 10 clusters, from teaching schools, the School Forum and LA reps – therefore a strong and representative group. There has been a positive response with 83/87 schools signing up. There is a SIA attached to each school, Working Together communication as well as seminars and support for governors as part of the subscription.

The SIMG will report to the LSP Board. It is proposed that the Vulnerable Schools Fund (VSF) pays for additional co-ordinated support for schools which are causing particular concern to SIMG. Any spend from the VSF is to be reported at the Schools Forum meeting. The SIMG will categorise schools three times a year and those schools identified will be written to and action plans put in place. Effective support to schools will mean a positive outcome ie. Intervene and support early, in order to keep 95% of Lambeth schools at “Good” or “Outstanding”.

Members discussed if the process of de-delegation across the schools and that it is proportional to school size. Money will not be spend by the LSP until it actually needs to do so and any money not spent by the LSP is then rolled forward.

Agreed: for De-Delegation for this financial year 2017-18 and to carry any remaining funds forwards to 2018/19. CA-J will inform the LSP.

12. AOB

None.

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES

29th November 2017 @ Hitherfield School 6-8pm

10th January 2018 @ Hitherfield School 6-8pm

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.55pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chris Ashley-Jones
Chair of the School Forum

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