

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

Representing Primary School Head teachers

Claire Whalley	Sunning Hill primary School
Jo Briggs	Hardy Mill Primary School
Rob Dean	St. Thomas's CE Primary School
Ms. V. Chatterjee	Clarendon Primary School

Representing Primary School Governors

David Bevitt	Devonshire Road Primary School
Anthony Slack	Walmsley / All Saints Primary Schools
Daniel Gauld	Heathfield Primary School
Clair Beswick	Johnson Fold Primary School

Representing Secondary School Governors

Joanne Murphy	Westhoughton High School
Patti Jones	St. Joseph's RC High School

Representing Academy Schools

Simon Bramwell	Vantage Academy Trust
Sarah Bagshaw	St. Bede CE
Rachel Lucas	Bolton St. Catherine's Academy

Representing Academy AP Settings

David Smith	Bolton Impact Trust
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Representing Early Years Settings

Julie Robinson	Private Setting
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Representing the RC Diocese

Nicola Rabbett	RC Diocese
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Representing Special Schools

Susan Tailor	Ladywood School
Sarah Greenhalgh	Rumworth School

Representing the Unions

Lauren Alergant	Unison
Matthew Wilkinson	Joint Teaching Unions

Also in Attendance

Councillor Galloway	BMBC
Julie Edwards	Chief Executives Department
Lisa Butcher	Chief Executives Department
Ian D Mulholland	Democratic Services
Helen Shearer	Bolton Council Start Well

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Sue Pounds and Martin Knowles.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Simon Bramwell and Seconded by Patti Jones that Daniel Gauld be appointed Chairman of the Schools Forum in accordance with the Forum's Constitution.

Resolved – That Daniel Gauld be appointed as Chairman of the Schools Forum.

Daniel Gauld here took the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Clair Beswick declared an interest in relation to her ownership of a private day nursery.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 28th February, 2020 were submitted.

Daniel Gauld referred to the fact that since the last meeting both the Chairman, Mike Doyle and the Vice-Chairman, Phil Hart had stepped down from the Forum. He paid tribute to their work and commitment over a long period of time and their contribution was echoed by members of the Forum.

He also mentioned that a new Primary Governor and three new Secondary Heads had joined the membership of the Forum.

The Clerk indicated that the position of Vice-Chairman still needed to be resolved and would be included on the agenda for the next meeting. This would need to be from a different sector as the current Chairman, in accordance with the Forum's Constitution.

Resolved – (i) That the minutes of the last meeting be signed as a correct record.

(ii) That letters be sent by the Clerk to the Forum to Messrs Doyle and Hart expressing this Forum's appreciation for their long standing commitment, work and professionalism in relation to Forum business and that they be sent every good wish for the future.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Director of People and Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which detailed items to be covered in the AGM including the constitution for 2020/21.

The report specifically set out details in terms of:-

- Membership of the Forum for the coming year;
- The programme of meetings and forward plan for the forthcoming year; and
- The updated Constitution of the Forum and its Sub-Groups.

Resolved – That the report including the membership and constitution for 2020/21 be agreed.

5. DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE DSG – FINANCIAL MONITORING OUTTURN REPORT, 2019/20

The Director of People and the Borough treasurer submitted a joint report which set out details of the final outturn position for the DSG portfolio for the 2019/20 financial year.

Members in their discussions referred to the fact that nursery schools have in year deficits in 2019/20.

Resolved – (i) That the financial final outturn position of the portfolio, as at 31st March, 2020 be noted.

(ii) That the changes in the capital programme, as detailed, be noted.

6. DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE DSG - FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT, QUARTER ONE, 2020/21

The Director of People and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which provided the Forum with information relating to the financial position for the People Portfolio (DSG) for the 2020/21 financial year, quarter one.

Resolved – That the financial position as at 30th June, 2020 be noted.

7. SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

The Director of People and the Borough Treasurer submitted a report which updated the Forum in terms of the recent announcements for education funding for 2021/22.

The report explained that due to Covid 19, the DfE had made limited changes to the funding arrangements to ensure that funding could be delivered. As in previous years, each local authority would continue to set a local schools funding formula. HM Government would, later this year, put forward plans to move to a hard National Funding Formula in the future, which would determine school funding allocations directly, rather than local funding formulae.

The report also mentioned matters around the teachers pay and pensions grant and the central schools block.

The report also set out details of the next steps.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- teachers pay and pensions; and
- high needs demand and over spend issues.

Resolved – That the report and discussions be noted.

8. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY OF LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMY TRUSTS

The Director of People and the Borough Treasurer submitted a report which updated the Forum on HM Government's response to the consultation, Financial transparency of local authority maintained schools and academy trusts.

The report set out details of the proposals and the implementation timescales. The consultation ran from 17th July to 30th September, 2019.

Members in their discussions referred to Governor Services and schools needed to be aware.

Resolved – That the report and discussions be noted.

9. FORMULA REVIEW SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July, 2020 were submitted.

Members discussed –

- The need to replace Phil hart on this meeting;
- The balance between academies and maintained schools as members;
- The exceptional costs to schools at present;
- Thanks to the work of the High Needs Sub-Group; and
- Matters around the DfE deep dive; and
- an update to the Forum on Covid 19.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

10. EARLY YEARS SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July, 2020 were submitted.

Members discussed –

- The discretionary fund grant / furlough scheme and the effect of a second covid wave; and
- Unions -Thanks to heads regarding co-working and work of support staff during the pandemic.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted .

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 3.10 p.m.)