

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 7TH OCTOBER 2011

Representing Secondary School Governors

David Kay	-	Sharples Science School
Joanne Murphy	-	Westhoughton High School
Pam Livesey	-	Ladywood School

Representing Primary School Headteachers

Simon Bramwell	-	SS Simon and Jude
Diane Bohan	-	St Teresa's RC Primary School
Mike Tonge	-	Prestolee Primary School
Janet Coysh	-	Chorley New Road Primary School

Representing Primary School Governors

Olive Fairhurst	-	Lord Street Primary School
Mike Doyle	-	Pikes Lane Primary School
Lynne Kay	-	Sharples Primary School
Neville Speakes	-	SS Peter and Paul Primary School

Representing Secondary Headteachers

Tony Purcell	-	Rivington and Blackrod
Phil Hart	-	Westhoughton High School
John Porteous	-	Turton School
Paul Roach	-	Mount St Joseph's RC School

Representing Non-School Members

Malcolm Fullerton	-	Joint Unions
Florence Hill	-	UNISON

Representing Nursery Schools

Ann Macleod	-	Susan Isaacs Nursery School
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Representing 14-19 Partnership

Jonathan Steele	-	Firwood
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Representing Academies

David Mole	-	Essa Academy
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Representing Special Schools Governors

Maureen Morrissey

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Thomasson Memorial

Also in Attendance

John Livesey	-	Children's Services
Julie Edwards	-	Children's Services
Claire Binks	-	Children's Services
Sabeena Wootton	-	Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor McKeon, Irene Jackson, Bill Bradbury, Tania Lewyckyj and Kathryn Wilkinson.

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM OCTOBER 2011-SEPTEMBER 2012

It was agreed that the Membership of the Schools Forum for October 2011 to September 2012 be approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Mike Doyle be appointed Chairman for the meeting of the Schools Forum for October 2011 to September 2012.

Mr M Doyle here took the Chair

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Phil Hart be appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting of the Schools Forum for October 2011 to September 2012.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTION AND REMINDER OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

It was agreed that the Schools Forum Constitution, including the Terms of Reference and Members be approved.

5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SUB GROUPS

It was agreed that the Constitution of Sub Groups be approved, subject to the addition of a Primary School Governor and the removal of Simon Bramwell.

6. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS, OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012

It was agreed that the programme of ordinary meetings, for October 2011 to September 2012 be approved.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 16th September 2011, were submitted and agreed as a correct record, subject to the addition in the attendance list of Phil Hart, Jan Robinson and Tony Purcell.

8. CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM: PROPOSALS FOR A FAIRER SYSTEM

The Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Services submitted a joint report which highlighted the main proposals contained within the Government's consultation on School Funding Reform and sought the views of the Forum on a number of key issues, which would form part of the Council's formal response.

The Forum were informed that this report had been considered at the meeting of the Children's Services and Safeguarding Policy Development Group and by the Executive Member for Children's Services that any further comments would be added to the final submission.

Following the final consideration of the report, the Forum debated at length the proposals and the following amendments were made to the draft response:-

- Question 3 – this response was expanded to include further examples;
- Question 7 – it was stated that to request an additional body to monitor Local Authorities would be a waste of Governments scarce resources;
- Question 18 – the response had been changed to continue with a maximum decrease of -1.5% per pupil rather than -2% and -3% as previously recommended by the Forum as Bolton felt strongly that it was inappropriate to change school budgets;
- Question 19 – examples of advantages in retaining centrally funded services were added;
- Question 20 – it was stated that it was unclear why schools should be refused to be able to continue with the current arrangements for free school meals;
- Question 22 – figures were added to demonstrate the implication of the current method of reducing the Revenue Support Grant for Academies;
- Question 33 – concerns about using Disability Living Allowance as a proxy indicator were stated; and
- Question 40 – Bolton's Early Years Single Funding Formula was added to the response as an example of good practice.

The responses from Bolton Council were in line with other authorities and the views of the Local Government Association.

It was agreed that the response be approved.

9. SCHOOLS FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD

The Director of Children's Services and Corporate Services, submitted a joint report regarding the effective financial management to allow school to optimise their resources to provide high-quality teaching and learning and so raise standards and attainment for all their pupils. The Schools Financial Value Standard replaced the

Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) and had been designed in conjunction with schools to assist them in managing their finances which gave assurances that they had secure financial management in place.

The report further advised what schools needed to do in order to adopt the standard, as well as the role of the Local Authority. Maintained schools that had not attained FMSiS by the end of March 2010, must complete and submit the Schools Financial Value Standard to the Council by 31st March 2012 and conduct an annual review thereafter. For all other maintained schools, the first run through would be required by 31st March 2013 and an annual review thereafter.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

10. FEEDBACK FROM THE FORMULA REVIEW GROUP

The Forum received a copy of the minutes from the Formula Review meeting held on 13th September 2011.

It was noted that much work still needed to be carried out in relation to those students who spoke English as an additional language as well as those International New Arrivals who did not receive enough funding on arrival to the United Kingdom.

It was agreed that the minutes of the Formula Review Group be noted.