

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 13TH NOVEMBER, 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
Vicky 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

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
Dominic McKeon	Little Lever Academy
Martin Knowles	Essa Academy

Representing Academy AP Settings

Stephen Gribbon	Harper Green School
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Representing Early Years Settings

Sue Pounds	Grosvenor Nursery School
Jasmine Sanders	Bolton School Nursery

(as deputy for Julie Robinson)

Representing the RC Diocese

Nicola Rabbett	RC Diocese
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Representing Special Schools

Susan Tailor	Ladywood School
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Representing the Unions

Lauren Alergant	Unison
Matthew Wilkinson	Joint Teaching Unions

Also in Attendance

Councillor Galloway	BMBC
Paul Rankin	People Department
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 Julie Robinson, David Smith and Sarah Greenhalgh.

Daniel Gauld, Chairman

11. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Rob Dean and Seconded by Patti Jones that Susan Tailor be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Schools Forum in accordance with the Forum's Constitution.

Resolved – That Susan Tailor be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Schools Forum.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 18th September, 2020 were submitted.

The Clerk to the Forum mentioned that letters of appreciation had been sent to both Mr. Mike Doyle and Mr. Phil Hart as previous Chairman and Vice -Chairman of this Forum and responses had been received from both expressing their gratitude and sending their best wishes to the Forum Members.

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

13. DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE DSG - FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT, QUARTER TWO, 2020/21

The Director of Childrens Services 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 two.

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

14. SCHOOL FUNDING CONSULTATION, 2021/22

The Director of Childrens Services and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which updated the forum on the latest budget announcements and to discuss the principles to be adopted in the school budget consultation for 2021-22.

Members were reminded, that at the last meeting, they had been apprised of the key information on the changes. The report now set out additional information in relation to –

- Increases in unit values;
- Transfer of grants;
- The impact on Boltons formula;
- The High Needs Block;
- The consultation questions on the issues of adopt the National funding Formula values, apply a minimum funding guarantee of 2% and transfer 0.5% of schools block to the high needs block;
- De-delegation; and
- The timetable and next steps.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Transfer of the teachers pay and pensions grant – teacher to pupil ratio possible modelling re different schools;
- 0.5% to high needs from the schools block and how modelled;

- Consultation and methodology to get information out to representative groups;
- The ever growing deficit and where does it stop. The need to look at projection figures and continued challenge and also the role of the Formula Review Sub-Group; and
- The risk to future funding.

Resolved – (i) That the update report and discussions be noted.

(ii) That a report be brought to this Forum in the new year setting out matters around the deficit and projection figures.

15. FORMULA REVIEW SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October, 2020 were submitted.

Members discussed –

- The deficit and working together was the answer;
- The inclusivity project and information to governors; and
- Formula Review – background needed on inclusivity project.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

16. EARLY YEARS SUB-GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2020 were submitted.

Members discussed –

- Early years block overspend; and
- Child care sufficiency audit.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted .

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.56 p.m.)