

## Formula Review Meeting

### Minutes

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Microsoft Teams Meeting

#### Present:

Jo Briggs (Chair)  
Patti Jones  
Dave Bevitt  
Alex Devany  
Stephen Gribbon  
Claire Whalley  
Julie Cheung  
Susan Tailor  
Adeel Sahi  
Joan Saunders  
Matthew Wilkinson

Primary Head Teacher  
Secondary Governor  
Primary Governor  
Secondary Head Teacher  
Secondary Head Teacher  
Primary Head Teacher  
Primary Head Teacher  
Special Head Teacher  
Secondary Business Manager  
Primary Business Manager  
Union Representative

Lisa Butcher  
Julie Edwards  
Helen Joseph

Head of Finance  
Schools Finance Manager  
Schools Finance Officer

**In attendance:** Tanya Johnson, Lindsay Nelson (part)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Dominic McKeon

#### 1. Welcome

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Minutes were agreed. JE informed the group that the High Needs consultation was being submitted and that 35 LA's were gainers, 36 losers and 79 with no change.

#### 3. Pupil Premium LAC

Lindsay Nelson, Virtual Head attended the meeting and presented to the Group an overview of the Bolton Virtual School Review.

This covered:-

- Proposal to establish a new team
- Details of the structure, including Deputy Head, caseworkers, Pre school, SEN lead, Ed Psychologist, Advisors, Post 16,
- Increase top slice from £175 to £550 per child per year (NW average £600).

The Group asked about the impact on individual school budgets:-

Total Change in Funding	Number of schools		
	Primary	Secondary	Special
£ -	33	1	0
£ 375	30	2	0
£ 750	18	0	1
£ 1,125	7	1	2
£ 1,500	6	2	0
£ 1,875	1	2	0
£ 2,250	1	1	2
£ 2,625	1	0	0
£ 3,375	0	4	0
£ 3,750	0	1	0
£ 4,125	0	3	0
£ 5,625	0	1	0
£ 6,750	0	0	1

The presentation is on the agenda for Schools Forum, however, the Group requested that schools are fully consulted in advance of the implementation, this would be by attending Inclusion and Engagement and PPR consultation Groups. The proposal has already been to BLA (Secondary) and ST will share with Special Heads.

The structure of the team would be similar to other NW authorities, this was welcomed by the Group.

**Action : – JC to speak to Rob Dean re PPR**

#### **4. Feedback from School Support Reforms Group**

JE briefed the group that the DfE would visit Bolton, week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> May for an informal discussion on the High Needs budget deficit. A formal meeting will take place later in the year. This has been fed back to the School Support Reforms Group to ensure a plan is in place by May. LB informed the group that Bury LA has already been through the process and JE would meet with them to find out what conditions had been imposed by the DfE.

Amanda Hulme has provided some detail from the groups that have met. These groups will now form two groups to look at high cost items and training. JE thanked everyone who had attended the group meetings.

#### **5. Business Rates Consultation**

JE outlined proposed changes to streamlining business rates system nationally. ESFA to pay rates bill rather than providing funding to schools and them paying. Cost will still be recorded in the schools' accounts. JE recommended taking to PPR rather than Schools Forum.

## **6. Impact of Covid – School Funding**

JE updated the group on school funding affected by Covid:

- **Early Years DSG** – DfE have announced that two Early Years headcounts will take place - in October and May to ensure that funding to the LA is not disadvantaged by Covid. Bolton's January headcount is above the 85% minimum funding level so doesn't require protection. The remote learning offer helped nursery attendance levels.
- **Recovery Premium** – it has been announced that a new one-off £302 million Recovery Premium for state primary and secondary schools, building on the Pupil Premium, to further support pupils who need it most. Funding rates are expected to be £145 per FSM pupil (£290 per special school pupil). The National Tutor Programme (NTP) has been extended. Summer Schools to focus on all year 7 children. Schools to sign-up by end of May.

- **Other Grants –**

Workforce Fund claim window has now closed. Grant for supply costs incurred by schools with conditions attached.

School Meals – window now open for schools to claim additional £3.50 per week per FSM food parcel provided.

Testing – split into testing before 8<sup>th</sup> March and testing after that date. Allocation based on test and trace data. Schools can also claim for any costs incurred before closures announced on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

### **7a. School Milk**

JE explained that the current process is labour intensive, collecting data and claiming the subsidies. There are companies who will supply the milk to schools and will also provide any admin that is required, so will reduce the burden on schools and the LA. The company will also provide a social value fund which could be worth £20,000. LA to look at the process for supplying and administration of school milk.

### **7b. Sickness Scheme**

This is a historic scheme. Membership has reduced over the years. Schools still within the scheme tend to be ones where sickness insurance would be high cost. Currently a loss is made on the scheme, funded by existing balances. Remaining balances at the end of the scheme would be paid to member schools. Proposal to cease the scheme from April 2022, will be communicated to schools affected.

## **8. National Update**

JE informed the group that the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation is due in Spring. Two strands – principles and proposals. Will include the future of dedelegation, central schools block and Schools Forum.

**9. Schools Forum Agenda**

Items to be included: - Virtual Head presentation (Lindsay Nelson), high needs update.

**10. Forward Plan**

Consultations due for NFF and high needs.

**11. Any Other Business**

None.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 8.30 am

MS Teams