

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING, 2nd MARCH, 2012

Representing Secondary School Governors

David Kay	-	Sharples Science School
Pam Livesey	-	Ladywood School
Renee Mellis	-	Westhoughton High School

Representing Primary School Headteachers

Kathryn Wilkinson	-	Eagley Junior Primary School
Simon Bramwell	-	SS Simon and Jude's CE Primary School
Janet Coysh	-	Chorley New Road Primary School
Mike Tong	-	Prestolee Primary School

Representing Primary School Governors

Mike Doyle	-	Pikes Lane Primary School
Olive Fairhurst	-	Lord Street Primary School
Neville Speakes	-	St Peter's and Paul's RC 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
Bernie Gallagher	-	UNISON

Representing RC Diocese

John Thorpe	-	SS Osmund and Andrews RC
Primary School		

Representing Nursery Schools

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

Jonathan Steele	-	Firwood Special School
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Representing Academies

David Mole - Essa Academy

Representing Special Schools

Mr. B. Bradbury - Rumworth Special School

Also in Attendance

Councillor McKeon	-	Bolton MBC
David Smith	-	Children's Services
Julie Edwards	-	Children's Services
Vicky Ridge	-	Democratic Services

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Tania Lewyckyj, Tony Purcell, Andrea Egan, Joanne Murphy, Lynne Kay, Jan Robinson and Maureen Morrissey.

Mr. M. Doyle in the Chair.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 20th January, 2012 were submitted and agreed as a correct record.

18. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman informed members that a booklet had been produced entitled 'Services for Schools' which promoted the services which the local authority provided. Copies were available if any member was interested.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

19. SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which informed members of the monitor for School Specific Contingency for 2011-12 and sought approval to the changes in this budget from April, 2012.

Members were advised that Appendix A to the report set out the 2011-12 monitor to date which showed a projected overspend of £24,968 and would be confirmed at year end. With regard to the overspend this would be met from other savings within the Centrally Held block.

The report also outlined the changes to the regulations for 2012/2013 and members were advised that in reviewing the contingencies line for 2011-12 the DfE noted that a great deal of money was being budgeted in this line where specific lines for this expenditure existed elsewhere on section 251. Consequently, each local authority had to apply to the DfE if it felt that some of the items in this budget should be

exempt from the Recoupment calculation. A copy of Bolton's application was detailed in Appendix B to the report.

In response to the above, members were advised that the DfE would publish detailed information for each authority in due course, setting out those elements in the 2011-2012 section 251 return which had been excluded from LACSEG. In the meantime the DfE had generally agreed to exclude the following types of expenditure from the calculation, viz:-

- Funding for high needs SEN;
- Equal pay;
- Funding held centrally for rates and rates evaluation;
- Schools in financial difficulties;
- Provision for LACSEG recoupment;
- Opening/closing schools; and
- Funding for diploma provision

In terms of those requests which had generally not be agreed to these were detailed as follows:-

- Funding for additional pupil number growth;
- Behaviour/hard to place pupils;
- Funding for school support/intervention/schools causing concern;
- Funding for mainstreamed grants which had not been delegated to schools; and
- General in-year allocations.

The report also outlined the 2012-2013 contingency budget which was set at £484,600.

A discussion ensued with the regard to the contingency budget for 2012-2013 and it was felt that an adjustment should be made to the special needs budget in view of the increase year-on-year on the current resources.

Resolved – That the monitor for 2011-2012 be noted and that the Contingency budget for 2012/2013 be approved subject to the virement for the special needs allocation.

20. SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which outlined the changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

Members were reminded that under sections 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Schedule 14 to the Act, each local authority must publish a Scheme for Financing Schools. The scheme sets out the financial relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools which it funded and contained requirements to financial management and associated issues, which were binding on both the Authority and schools.

The report advised that under the Education Act 2012, the Secretary of State had the power to issue directed revisions to local authority schemes for financing schools which meant that authorities must incorporate within, or remove from, their schemes the specific wording. It was explained that the proposed directed revisions related to announcements ministers had already made or other provisions in the Education Act and the proposed consultation exercise ran until 19th March, 2012.

The proposed changes were detailed in Annex A to the report and were summarised as follows:-

Removal from Scheme

- Best Value Statement;
- Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS); and
- Payments of General Teaching Council (GTC) fees.

Additions to the Scheme

- Efficiency and Value for Money;
- Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS); and
- Fraud

Amendments to the Scheme

- Community Facilities Premature Retirement and Dismissal costs.

Ms. B. Gallagher, UNISON, informed members that the Council had recently agreed a protocol for dealing with the procurement of services and goods and she enquired as to whether schools would be willing to adhere to this.

A discussion ensued regarding this and it was felt that this was probably not the appropriate body to consider the request and, therefore, it was proposed that this item be considered by the Planning, Policy and Resources Group who would then make a recommendation to the Forum.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

21. GOVERNOR VACANCIES – APPOINTMENT PROCESS

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which set out the appointment process for the current Governor vacancies on the Forum.

Members were advised that the process for nominating and electing Governors to the Schools Forum was detailed in Annex A to the report and Governor Support Services had been instructed to begin this process for the appointment of two vacant posts.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 1.30 p.m. and finished at 2.40 p.m.)