

Schools Forum

May 17th 2012 - Minutes

PRESENT:	
Diana Turner	Governor
Chris Smart	Governor
Peter Reaney	Governor
David Kelham (substitute)	Governor
Latika Davis	Governor
Cathy Clarke	Primary Headteacher
Stella Saje	Primary Headteacher
Gill Humphriss	Primary Headteacher
Chris Errington	Primary Headteacher
Karen Ferguson	Primary Headteacher
Ramjit Samra	Secondary (Maintained) Headteacher
Tony Wilmot	Secondary (Maintained) Headteacher
Patsy Weighill	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Iain Blaikie	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Philip Hamilton	Secondary (Academy) Headteacher
Judith Humphrey	Special School Headteacher
Rachel Gillett	Nursery School Head Teacher
Sybil Hanson	Diocesan Board of Education
Laurel Penrose	14-19 Representative
Steve Dyke	PVI Representative
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Elected Member
Ian Froggett	Union Representative NAS/UWT, Chair of ATP
John Collins	Union Representative
David Hazeldine	County Secretary ASCL
Max Hyde	County Secretary NUT
Sam Kinkaid	County Secretary NAS/UWT
Wendy Fabbro	Director, People Group
Mark Gore	Head of Service – Learning & Achievement
Lorrie Cooper	Primary and Early Years Phase Manager
John Betts	Head of Corporate Finances
Simon Smith	Strategic Finance Manager
Sara Haslam	Schools Funding & Strategy Manager
Clare Morris	Budget Planning Officer, Schools Funding Team

1. Apologies – Apologies were received from the following:

Ramesh Sirvastava	Governor
Philip Johnson	Governor
June Tandy	Governor
Larry Granelly	Governor
Phil Clucas	Governor
Cllr Ross	Elected Member
Cllr Robbins	Elected Member
Cllr Timms	Elected Member
Mick Haynes	Trade Union Representative
Adrian Ross	Trade Union Representative
Paul Hamilton	Trade Union Representative
Sam Kincaid NAS/UWT and Max Hyde NUT	Present at the meeting but apologies as had to leave early to attend another meeting.

2.0 Welcome New Members

2.1 Mark Gore welcomed the new members to Schools Forum.

3.0 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

3.1 Diana Turner, Governor was elected as the new Chair. Stella Sage, Primary Headteacher was elected as the new Vice Chair.

4.0 Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

4.1 The minutes were agreed as accurate.

4.2 Matters arising:

4.2.1 The minutes from previous meeting recorded that additional information was to be presented at this meeting regarding:

Item 5.2 – SEN and Out County Provision

Item 7.4 – The Kooth Contract

Item 7.6 - Update regarding The Key

These items were not on the agenda but Simon confirmed the additional information would be provided at Schools Forum meeting in October, when accounts for 2011/12 will be finalised.

4.2.2 Further comments were made regarding item 6 - EMAG/EAL Funding. The new funding reforms indicate that new arrivals only require EAL support a maximum of 3 years. After this period if they still require support it is an SEN issue. It is important that capacity building is within the remit of the central team. Mark Gore confirmed that there is no evidence that EMAG/EAL pupil numbers are falling and therefore one of the priorities of the central team will be to focus on capacity building.

5.0 School Funding Reforms for 2013/14

5.1 Simon provided a presentation regarding the recently published Schools Funding Reforms for 2013/14. School Funding Reform: Next steps towards a fairer system.

5.2 The issue of academy funding for redundancy costs from the DSG was raised. Simon agreed to look into this.

6.0 School Funding Reforms 2013/14 – Key changes and Project Management.

6.1 Sara presented a report.

6.2 It was agreed in principle to no movement of funding in the modelling of the impact of schools funding reforms between the nursery, primary, secondary and special school sectors.

6.3 The following comments were made regarding the project management approach being taken in this schools funding review:

- It was proposed that there should be a Primary Head representative on the Project Board.

Agreed: Jill Humphriss, Primary Headteacher will be included on the Project Board.

- There is also not a Special school representative on the Project Board but Sara confirmed that Jessica Nash will be reporting to the Board.
- It is important that Governors are well informed. Headlines of minutes should be provided to Governor Forums.
- There will be opportunities to discuss issues at Headteacher meetings Patch Meetings and Governors Forum. It is important to make clear the statutory nature of the funding reforms and which elements can be influenced.
- Views from the wider consultation will be reported back to Schools Forum.
- The strategy of project management was supported by Schools Forum.

6.4 The following comments were made regarding the issues and implications identified in the report:

- The changes to SEN funding requires more funding that Warwickshire currently allocates to SEN.
- There needs to be clarity regarding what is included currently in the centrally retained funds. This needs to be specifically identified in the consultation.
- The impact of changes on individual schools should be made available. It would also be helpful to show the impact of the changes made as a result of the April 2012 formula changes thus highlighting the cumulative effect of changes over both years. Sara confirmed that the regulations state the need to be clear about the impact of the changes.

7.0 School Funding Reforms 2013/14 – Consultation Response

7.1 A draft consultation response was provided for discussion.

7.2 It was agreed that additional comments should be included regarding the ABP level of £8000.

7.3 The further comments section on the DfE consultation document should be used to ensure officials understand the implications on individual schools and to raise issues not covered by the questions in the consultation.

8.0 School Funding Reforms 2013/14 – Impact on the Schools Forum

8.1 Details of the potential future changes to voting membership and processes of the schools forum were provided in a report and were noted.

9.0 Schools Balances as at March 31st 2012

9.1 Sara presented a report.

9.2 A proposal was made that in light of the turbulence of formula changes that the School Balance Policy be put on hold for one year to enable schools to prepare and recover from changes in funding. The following comments were made in response to the proposal:

- There is no equity between clawback regulations for Academy and maintained schools. Academy regulations apply to balances in excess of 12% whereas the current maintained regulations apply to balances in excess of 8% for Primary, Nursery and Special schools and 5% for Secondary schools. However, the DfE are expected to issue further guidance regarding balance control procedures in the future.
- The LA is accountable for balances and will need to report to the DfE regardless of whether a clawback policy is in place. Therefore the LA still requires information from schools regarding balances.
- Schools Forum should not send out a message that balances are acceptable. If reserves continue to increase the case of the F40 group is hampered and it gives the wrong political message.
- Schools Forum can only make recommendations regarding the continuation or suspension of a clawback policy.

Agreed: In view of turbulence to funding, Schools Forum recommends that the LA considers that the clawback process be put on hold for 1 year.

10.0 Forward Plan

10.1 A Forward Plan containing a provisional programme of possible issues for Schools Forum to consider over the next year was provided.

11.0 Academies Update

11.1 An updated list of Warwickshire Academies was provided.

11.2 A request was made for a list of Federations to also be provided at the next meeting. Sara confirmed there had been no recent changes to the schools involved in federations, however a list will be provided at the next meeting.

12.0 Chair's Business

12.1 None.

13.0 Next Meeting.

13.1 The next meeting will be held on 27th September, Building One, Conference Room One and Two, Saltisford Office Park, Warwick at 2pm.