

Schools Forum

October 18th 2012 - Minutes

PRESENT:	
Diana Turner	Governor
Chris Smart	Governor
Peter Reaney	Governor
Latika Davis	Governor
Philip Johnson	Governor
Larry Granelly	Governor
Phil Clucas	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 Humphry	Special School Headteacher
Rachel Gillett	Nursery School Head Teacher
Sybil Hanson	Diocesan Board of Education
Steve Dyke	PVI Representative
Ian Froggett	Union Representative NAS/UWT, Chair of ATP
David Hazeldine	County Secretary ASCL
Max Hyde	County Secretary NUT
John Collins	Trade Union Representative
Sam Kincaid	Trade Union Representative
Hugh Disley	Head of Service Early Intervention
Cllr Rickhards	Elected Member
Mark Gore	Head of Service – Learning & Achievement
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:

Laurel Penrose	14-19 representative
David Kelham	Governor
Cllr June Tandy	Governor
Ramesh Sirvastava	Governor
Cllr Heather Timms	Elected Member
Cllr Carolyn Robbins	Elected Member
Cllr John Ross	Elected Member
Margaret Buck	Catholic Diocese
Mick Haynes	Unison
Adrian Ross	Unite
Paul Hamilton	GMB
Wendy Fabbro	Strategic Director - People Group
John Betts	Head of Finance

2.0 Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 The following points were raised concerning the minutes from the previous meeting.

- Apologies were received from Cllr Rickhards but were not recorded on the minutes.
- Sam Kincaid, Union representative NAS/UWT was present at last meeting but not listed in the minutes.
- The wording of point 4.9 on page 3 was misleading. The point being made was that the use or non-use of a prior attainment factor in the new formula must be consistent across both the Primary and Secondary Sector.
- Point 8.2 on page 5 states that there is no intention to change the Early Years Funding Formula for 2013/14. The DfE has issued guidance recommending that the EYSFF should only use a basic rate and a deprivation rate. The Warwickshire formula already complies with this and therefore has not been subject to further review. However, it was confirmed that further consideration of the formula will take place once more information is known regarding the changes to Dedicated Schools Grant in terms of funding for disadvantaged 2 year olds.

2.2 There were no matters arising.

3.0 Dedicated Schools Grant 2011/12 Out turn

3.1 Simon presented the report.

3.2 Agreed: That the General DSG Reserve is retained in full until we have more clarity around budget levels for 2013/14.

3.3 The detail of centrally managed services includes £9.754m out of county expenditure in 2011/12. A request was made for further information regarding this expenditure including:

- Pupil year group.
- Year admitted to an out of county establishment.
- How long they have been in out of county
- Pupil's SEN status/needs.
- Pupil outcomes.

3.4 It was confirmed that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder and elected members have the responsibility for scrutinising out of county expenditure. However, it was confirmed that as this is a significant area of expenditure it was reasonable for Schools Forum to request and be provided with further information.

Action: A comprehensive report on 2011/12 Out of County expenditure would be provided at the next meeting.

3.5 A query was raised why the Secondary PRU out turn figure was overspent. Simon confirmed the actual figures were different to the budget as the budget for the Area Behaviour Partnership are calculated on an academic year basis, while the report showed the financial year position.

4.0 The Final Dedicated Schools Grant 2012-13

4.1 Simon presented a report detailing; the 2011/12 final DSG funding, the indicative position as at March 2012 and the Final 2012/13 DSG funding, as notified by the Department for Education.

Agreed: The Forum agreed the final allocation of the 2012/13 DSG.

5.0 The Schools Funding Reforms – Final Recommendation.

5.1 Sara presented the report.

5.2 Members of the Forum were asked to vote on the preferred funding formula option to be presented to Cabinet for final approval in December. It was explained that votes would be taken for option 1, option 2 and option 4. Before voting took place the following comments were made:

- It was confirmed that the EFA had not issued any specific guidance on how voting should be conducted, only that Schools Forum should be consulted and a consensus decision be taken to Cabinet for approval.
- Although 3 options would be subject to a vote at the meeting, it was noted that the Project Board only formally recommended Options 1 and 2 at its meeting on October 2nd. It was noted that, in terms of schools voting as “one school, one vote” in the consultation, Options 1 and 2 were the most popular. However, in terms of the pupils that these schools represent, Option 1 and 4 were the most popular. Therefore it was felt pragmatic to include Option 4 in the voting process in the interests of openness and transparency. Iain Blaikie asked who had made the decision that it was pragmatic to include Option 4 in the voting process, but this question was over ruled by the chair.
- At Schools Forum on 27th September, it was requested that the 2 most favourable options be brought to the meeting on 18th October and to offer schools who had not responded to the consultation to do so. This included primary head members of Schools Forum to take views from head teachers on all options. However, it was noted that there was no mechanism to report this supplementary feedback to the Project Board at this latter stage. Therefore, again, there was merit in retaining Option 4 to be voted upon.

- The EFA will review how decisions have been made and the winners and losers that result. That information will be published. Therefore it is important that there is transparency in the process.
- Views received in the Bedworth area concluded that head teachers had not initially fully understood the implications of the consultation. General opinion is that a deprivation factor based on just Free School Meals numbers was not appropriate as SEN issues are not always related to FSM.
- Option 1 and 2 remove money from deprived areas and Option 3 and 4 move money into deprived areas. To take money out of deprived areas could not be beneficial.
- Warwickshire as a county has worked hard at “narrowing the gap” and Options 1 and 2 would have a negative effect on this.
- The Special head teacher at the Schools Forum stated that she would abstain from voting as the School Funding Reforms does not impact on special schools.

5.3 The results of the vote were:

- **Option 1 – 5 votes.**
- **Option 2 – 2 votes.**
- **Option 4 – 13 votes.**

Agreed: Option 4 will be presented to Cabinet in December for final approval and that this would be the basis of completing the pro forma to the DfE for 31st October.

6.0 The Schools Funding Reforms – De-delegation of Delegated Funding.

6.1 Sara presented the report.

6.2 Votes were taken on the de-delegation of funding for services to enable the LA to continue the delivery of these services on behalf of primary maintained and secondary maintained schools only.

6.3 Agreed: Retention of £400,000 contingency funding to provide support for schools with a significant increase in pupils in 2013/14 on the basis that any underspend in 2013/14 will be recycled into the DSG in 2014/15.

6.4 Agreed: Retention of £100,000 to assist schools with amalgamations or mergers on the basis that any underspend in 2013/14 will be recycled into the DSG in 2014/15.

6.5 Agreed: The table below shows the results of voting to de-delegate funding to the LA for other services:

	Primary	Secondary
School Improvement funding (Primary sector only vote)	De-delegate	N/A
Administration of Free school Meals eligibility	De-delegate	De-delegate
Support for Gypsy Romany Travellers	De-delegate	Delegate
Support for English as an Additional Language	De-delegate	De-delegate
Staff costs – supply cover	De-delegate	De-delegate
Behaviour Support Services (Primary sector only vote)	De-delegate	N/A
General Contingency Funding	Delegate	Delegate

6.6 The report provided also included details of baseline funding allocations for services for which funding is included in the Schools Block of the DSG that regulations state do not, during 2013/14, need to be delegated to schools.

6.7 Agreed: The non-delegated baseline schools block funding allocations detailed in 2.18 of the report were approved.

6.8 With the move nationally towards the increased delegation of funding to schools, a review would be undertaken during 2013/14 in relation to those budgets held centrally by the LA and which are currently not subject to forced delegation next year.

6.9 Action: A report providing further details of these services will be provided at the March Schools Forum meeting.

7.0 School Balances as at March 2012 and Claw Back

7.1 Sara presented the report.

7.2 The following members of Schools Forum volunteered to be on a panel to consider cases for claw back of surplus balances held at 31/3/12 in line with the Balance Control Mechanism Policy:

- Chris Errington – Primary Head teacher
- Tony Wilmot – Secondary Head teacher
- Diana Turner – Governor
- Larry Granelly – Governor
- Sybil Hanson – Diocesan Board of Education

7.3 Agreed: Schools Forum recommended that Warwickshire’s future Policy for Balances Control Mechanism is kept in line with the EFA regulations for academies.

8.0 Schools Forum – Forward Plan 2012.

8.1 A forward plan containing a provisional programme of possible issues for Schools Forum to consider over the next year was provided.

8.2 During the meeting it was agreed that the following items would be added to the forward plan:

- Further information regarding Out of County expenditure.
- Update from Overview and Scrutiny regarding the School Funding Reforms to be provided at the next meeting on 6th December 2012.
- Further information regarding the funding allocations for services for which funding is included in the Schools Block of the DSG and will not be delegated in 2013/14, but may be subject to future delegation.

Action: These items to be included on the Schools Forum Forward Plan

9.0 Chair's Business.

9.1 None.

10.0 Next Meeting.

10.1 The next meeting will be held on 6th December, Northgate House, Warwick at 2pm.