

Schools Forum

Thursday 21 March 2024

Minutes

- Voting and Actions of the meeting held on 21 March 2024.

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WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**Voting and Actions of the meeting held on 21 March 2024****Microsoft Teams meeting 14:00 – 16:00 pm****SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS**

Alison Ramsay	Nicholas Chamberlaine School (Academy)
Amy Woodward	North Leamington School (Academy)
Andy Mason	Stratford Upon Avon School (Academy)
Blake Francis	The Avon Valley School & Performing Arts College (Maintained)
Claire Jeffs-Watts	Bridgetown Primary School ((Maintained)
Mary Anne Burrows	PVI – The Burrow Nursery & Pre-School
Nicci Burton	Atherstone and Bedworth Heath Nursery School (Maintained)
Paul Hosted	The Warwickshire Academy
Philip Johnson	Whitestone Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Rebecca Harrison	Park Hill Thorns Federation (Maintained)
Ricky Emms	The Priors School (Academy)
Rose Gunn	Arden Forest Infant School (Maintained)
Sarah Bromley	PVI - Castle Nursery
Siobhan Roberson	Harris Church of England School (Academy)
Sybil Hanson	Coventry Church of England Diocese Representative

OFFICERS/OBSERVERS

Brian Smith	Education, Children and Families Technical Specialist
Dalbir Kaur	Accountant, Children & Education - Clerk to Schools Forum
Johnny Kyriacou	Director of Education
Leah Adams	Head of Early Years and School Effectiveness
Purnima Sherwood	Service Manager for Finance
Ross Caws	Lead Commissioner - Strategy and Commissioning
Sophie Thompson	School Improvement Networks Lead Officer
Stephanie Phillips	Senior Accountant (Team Lead) - Children & Education
Iain Green (Observer)	Headteacher-Rugby Free Secondary School

1. Apologies (Started 0:0:00, Ended 0:0:46)

Please note: the start and the end time is the recording time of the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following members and Officers:

Aveninder Kaur	Representative from a Teacher's Union
Jane Burrows	Myton School (Academy)
Michael Cowland	The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust
Peter Husband	16-19 Partnership Sector
Bern Timings	Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Education Capital and Sufficiency)
Councillor Kam Kaur	Portfolio Holder for Education
Emma Basden-Smith	Education Capital, Sufficiency and Transport Lead Commissioner

The following members did not attend and did not give their apologies:

Catherine Crisp
Carrie Clare

Hillmorton Primary School Rugby (Maintained)
Park Lane Primary & Race Leys Junior (Academy)

2. Voting and Actions from the Last Meeting (Chair) (Started 0:0:47, Ended 0:1:55)

Agreed as a true record

Actions from 11 January meeting

- a) **Agenda item 3. National Funding Formula 2024-25.** Schools Forum members requested that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) officer contact DfE and flag the fact of shortfall in funding to apply the hard national funding formula.

Resolved – WCC officer had a meeting with DfE and other local authorities across the East and West Midlands and it was flagged that we are not alone in having a shortfall or affordability gap as it has been put in between the hard national funding formula. Other councils also had an affordability issue on the national funding formula this year.

- b) **Agenda item 4. Send revised Early Years National Funding Formula 2024-25 Paper.** Some information in the paper required review.

Resolved - Revised paper was sent with January draft minutes.

3. Director of Education update (Johnny Kyriacou) (Started 0:1:55, Ended 0:09:22)

Director of Education gave brief on few items as follows:

- WCC was successful in its application for the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme with the DfE. Which means DfE will release about 1million funding for us to spend on key initiatives and strategies to create more sustainable High Needs Block expenditures going forward.
- We are looking at four different strategic strands. Such as using digital software for EHC plans, focusing on inclusion charter, workforce development and strategic approach to develop specialist resource provision in mainstream schools.
- Our strategic approach is the development of specialist resource provision in mainstream schools. So that we can support young people with SEND more in mainstream schools. Give schools the resources and the capacity to do so.
- There is significant increase in exclusions across the county. It seems to be happening nationwide and the age of young people being excluded permanently is getting younger and younger.
- We do not have alternative provision school in the county. We rely on providers who are not able to take young people unnecessary full time.
- We have started to develop an alternative provision strategy. Working with schools again similar to the resource provision to look at where schools could potentially host alternative provision within their schools.
- All schools are involved in this strategically. So, everybody is going to have a say or be able to contribute in what our approach is for this so that we can maximise the resources and work together. Schools throughout Education Partnership Board that meets every month and that has representation from all schools in the county are involved.

Matters for decision:

4. DSG 2024-25 Budget (Stephanie Phillips) (Started 0:09:22, Ended 0:23:29)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are recommended to:

- a) Note the DSG budget for 2024/25 for the Schools, High Needs and Early Years blocks.
- b) Approve the Central School Services block (CSSB) budget of the DSG budget for 2024/25.

Voting: 15 members agree
0 members disagree

5. Schools Forum Membership (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 0:23:29, Ended 0:30:20)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are invited to:

- a) Note that current representatives are invited to extend their term of office for an additional year up to March 2025.

All representatives (present in the meeting) unanimously agreed to extend their term of office for an additional year up to March 2025

6. Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 0:30:20, Ended 0:33:53)

Recommendations:

The maintained Schools Forum members are invited to:

- a) Note the recommended change to the Scheme for financing of schools.
- b) Asked to approve the timetable for consultation on the change with maintained schools.
- c) Schools Forum are asked to note that as the DfE tend to update their guidance on 31 March each year, going forward this report will move to the June meeting.

Although, all representatives from maintained schools voted in favour of consultation timetable. There were 4 votes from maintained primary schools, 1 from maintained secondary school, 1 from maintained nursery school. Therefore, 6 representatives from the maintained schools unanimously approved the timetable for consultation on the change with maintained schools.

7. Annual review of future meetings (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 0:33:53, Ended 0:39:27)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- a) The options to have the June 2024 meeting face to face or November meeting face to face.
- b) Perhaps both face to face, or none at all.

Voting: 14 members agree to have face to face meeting in November 2024
1 member disagree

Matters for Information/Comment:

8. DSG Monitoring Report 2023-24 (Stephanie Phillips) (Started 0:39:27, Ended 0:45:29)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- a) The DSG forecast financial outturn position for 2023/24, as at Period 10.
- b) The forecasted outturn position of the DSG reserve for 2023/24, as at Period 10.

9. Update on Academisation of Schools (Dalbir Kaur) (Started 0:45:29, Ended 0:46:49)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

Since last update on Academisation in September last year Arley Primary school has converted to Academy status and joined Inspire Education Trust

There are eight more schools planning to convert to Academy status this year. I will bring another update in September if there are any changes or more converters to Academy status by that date.

10. Forward Plan (Dalbir Kaur) (Started 0:46:49, Ended 0:48:19)

Next Schools Forum is on 20 June 2024. There are two items for decision and two for information and comments.

Schools Forum members can add item on the agenda by sending the relevant information to:
schoolfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk

11. Chairs Business (Started 0:48:19, Ended 0:48:59)

Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and had no other matters to report.

Note: Voting took place via Hands up and Polls function on Microsoft Teams.

Meeting concludes at 15:03pm.

If you would like to listen to the full meeting, please click [here](#)

Next Meeting on Thursday 20th June 2024, 2:00pm to 4:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.