

## WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

### Voting and Actions of the meeting held on 20 June 2024

#### Microsoft Teams meeting 14:00 – 16:00 pm

#### SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS

Andy Mason	Stratford Upon Avon School (Academy)
Blake Francis	The Avon Valley School & Performing Arts College (Maintained)
Gillian Bowser	Stockingford Academy
Jane Burrows	Myton School (Academy)
Michael Cowland	The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust
Nicci Burton	Atherstone and Bedworth Heath Nursery School (Maintained)
Paul Hosted	The Warwickshire Academy
Philip Johnson	Whitestone Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Sarah Bromley	PVI - Castle Nursery
Suzanne Whiston	Oak Wood Secondary School (Academy)
Sybil Hanson	Coventry Church of England Diocese Representative
Aveninder Kaur	Representative from a Teacher's Union

#### OFFICERS/OBSERVERS

Brian Smith	Education, Children and Families Technical Specialist
Dalbir Kaur	Accountant, Children & Education - Clerk to Schools Forum
Johnny Kyriacou	Director of Education
Liz Firmstone	Head of Operational Finance Services
Purnima Sherwood	Director of Finance
Ross Caws	Lead Commissioner - Strategy and Commissioning
Sophie Thompson	School Improvement Networks Lead Officer
Stephanie Phillips	Senior Accountant (Team Lead) - Children & Education

#### 1. Welcome to new members and Apologies (Started 0:00:04, Ended 0:01:23)

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

Chair welcomed three new Academy School members.

Chair declared that he is elected to this forum as a maintained school's representative of Whitestone Infant School, where he is a governor. He is also the Chair of governors at Stockingford Academy.

#### Apologies were received from the following members and Officers:

Alison Ramsay	Nicholas Chamberlaine School (Academy)
Amy Woodward	North Leamington School (Academy)
Carrie Clare	Park Lane Primary & Race Leys Junior (Academy)
Claire Jeffs-Watts	Bridgetown Primary School ((Maintained)
Harpreet Deo	Lead - Strategy and Commissioning
Iain Green	Headteacher-Rugby Free Secondary School
Mary Anne Burrows	PVI – The Burrow Nursery & Pre-School
Rebecca Harrison	Park Hill Thorns Federation (Maintained)
Ricky Emms	The Priors School (Academy)
Siobhan Roberson	Harris Church of England School (Academy)
Peter Husband	16-19 Partnership Sector
Councillor Kam Kaur	Portfolio Holder for Education

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

Catherine Crisp  
Rose Gunn

Hillmorton Primary School Rugby (Maintained)  
Arden Forest Infant School (Maintained)

**2. Voting and Actions from the Last Meeting (Chair) (Started 0:01:23, Ended 0:01:38)**

Agreed as a true record.

**Matters for decision:**

**3. Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 0:01:38, Ended 0:04:58)**

**Recommendations:**

The maintained school representatives of schools Forum members are asked to:

- a) Approve the updated Scheme for the Financing of Schools
- b) Note that this report will move to the September meeting each year.

Voting: 3 Maintained school representatives agree.

0 Maintained school representatives disagree.

Chair formally introduced Liz Firmstone, who is replacing Purnima on this forum due to Purnima's promotion to a new role (Director of Finance).

**Matters for Information/Comment:**

**4. DSG Monitoring Report 2023-24 (Stephanie Phillips) (Started 0:04:58, Ended 0:12:00)**

**Recommendations:**

All Schools Forum members are recommended to note:

- a) The DSG financial outturn position for 2023/24.

Members discussed overspend in High Needs Block and underspend in Early Years Block.

The overspend in High Needs Block is national issue. Overspend will be addressed to DfE through Delivering Better Value Programme. The Early years block is based on two year old assumptions at the present, using National data.

**5. Delivering Better Value Programme Update (Harpreet Deo) (Started 0:21:40, Ended 0:50:23)**

**Recommendations:**

All Schools Forum members are recommended to note and support:

- a) The DBV workstreams put in place to achieve the 'Lower Bound Target Mitigation'.

Members and officers exchanged their comments and suggestions on this paper. School members expressed their concerns about increased pressure on schools and nurseries of high need places and various provisions.

Members also talked about focusing on children's specific needs and pressures on resources. Detailed conversation on this agenda item is in the recording.

## **6. Consultation Timetable 2024-25 (Brian Smith) (Started 0:12:00, Ended 0:21:40)**

Note: This item was presented before the item 5.

### **Recommendations:**

The maintained school representatives of schools Forum members are asked to note:

- a) The timetable for de-delegation consultation for 2025-26.

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- a) The estimated timetable for any potential need to consult with schools on any potential transfers between schools funding blocks.

Members suggested to explore different ways of consulting with schools on potential transfers between schools funding blocks to maximise the response rate.

Officers added that WCC will be working more closely this year with the DfE in order to get more advice on how to frame the consultation and how it goes out to schools.

Suggestions were made that the school forum members and the offices should consider more communicate with school representatives about the block transfer consultation. This is to improve the response rate.

Chair suggested that if members think of anything after the meeting which is relevant to the block transfer consultation, then send those comments to schools forum clerk.

## **7. Forward Plan (Dalbir Kaur) (Started 0:50:23, Ended 0:52:23)**

Next Schools Forum is on 26 September 2024. There is one item for decision and six for information and comments.

For the November meeting the plan is to have this meeting in person, date and venue to be confirmed. Suggestions received on different venues and the venue at The Warwickshire Academy if required.

Dalbir Kaur to check availability of the suitable meeting room at Shire Hall first. If meeting room at shire hall is not available, then explore other options as suggested by members.

The attendance was very low in this meeting. Therefore, members suggested to hold next year's June meeting a week or so early rather than on 20<sup>th</sup> June to improve the attendance. The members commented that June month is very busy period for schools. Officers to review and consider the options to have next year's June meeting on early dates in June.

## **8. Chairs Business (Started 0:52:23, Ended 0:53:04)**

Chair formally congratulated Purnima on her new role and for her consistent support to this forum at every meeting. Also personally, thanked her for the support and advice to chair over the years.

Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Note:** Voting took place via Hands up on Microsoft Teams.

**Meeting concludes at 14:58pm.**

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

**Next Meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 2:00pm to 4:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.**

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