

**THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday 29th May 2012**

- 1. Attendance and Apologies**

See Annex A. Susi Whittome substituted for Virginia Bridge. Members welcomed new member Craig Voller, Headteacher Goodrich Primary School and also Chris Sutton as an Academy Observer.
- 2. Declaration of Interests**

Members were asked to declare any pecuniary or other interests they might have that were greater than the interests of other members of the Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion. There were none.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th March 2012**

These were agreed as a true record.
- 4. Matters Arising from Meeting of 15th March 2012**
 - 4.1 Maddy Webb asked about progress on the Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Review, Merrill Haeusler said that Yvonne Ely was going to be looking at this after half term and it may be useful to set up a working group of the Schools Forum on this subject. Sharon Donno asked that the Heads Executive be kept informed and involved where necessary.
 - 4.2 Irene Bishop asked about progress on providing an “exemplar” for schools to use as a template for responding to the needs of the School Financial Value Standard. Melissa Williamson said that it was in hand.
 - 4.3 LA request to DfE regarding PFI and converting to academies, Merrill Haeusler said that Kerry Crichlow, who could not attend today’s meeting, said that this was ongoing.
 - 4.4 The slides used by Fay Hammond at the last meeting on the impact of academies on the DSG funding to the LA had been updated and distributed.
- 5. Dedicated Schools Grant 2011-12 - Outturn**
 - 5.1 Fay Hammond had circulated a report with the agenda. This set out the provisional outturn position for the 2011-12 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). It showed an anticipated underspend of £3.1m as well as the £2m held in contingency. Details of the variances, both over and under spends were set out in the report.
 - 5.2 The key underspend was relating to Early Years, both PVI and Voluntary Sector and over spends were maternity reimbursements and SEN places in the independent and out borough schools.
 - 5.3 A detailed report on the Local Authority proposals for this underspend will be brought to the next meeting.

- 5.4 Maddy Webb said that in some instances the Trade Union Facility monies covered more than one financial year. It was noted that Redriff had received funding under the School Intervention and Schools in Difficulty column even though it became an academy during the year, was this right? Melissa Williamson said that this would be checked and reported back to the Schools Forum.
- 6. School Funding Reform 2013 – A presentation by Fay Hammond and Colleagues**
- 6.1 Fay Hammond distributed handouts of the 62 slides prepared for the overview presentation although not all will be used that afternoon. It will focus on the decisions needed by October 2012 for introduction in April 2013. This was in preparation for a national formula scheduled to be introduced as part of the next Common Spending Review.
- 6.2 Although still classified by the DfE as a “consultation” the areas still to be ruled in by the DfE are only minor, however, overall, there are still 90 pages of Frequently Asked Questions from LAs on the DfE website. The key changes to note are:
- Simplification of mainstream funding
 - Separate funding to LAs into blocks for:
 - Providers of High Needs Pupils
 - Early Years Providers
 - Mainstream Schools
 - Reduction/Removal of the funding top-up for the number of 3 year olds that are below the 90% threshold to be in provision.
- 6.3 The timescale is that the new funding formula for schools has to be finalised by early October 20-12.
- 6.4 A key change is that the previous October rather than January Census data is to be used and the LA can only use 10 factors for their funding formula, namely:
- Per Pupil
 - Social Deprivation
 - Looked After Children
 - Low cost, high incidence SEN
 - EAL
 - A lump sum
 - Split Sites
 - NNDR Rates
 - PFI Contracts
 - For 5 LAs (not Southwark) who have some of their schools in the London fringe area
- 6.5 As a consequence of these new factors the existing formula will need to be reviewed to agree how funding will be delegated, agree treatment of gains and losses, then consult. A LA can only adjust the value of a formula factor in the January of each year, not the actual factor itself.
- 6.6 Fay Hammond then took members through Southwark’s existing formula factors to explore how they can be accommodated in the new framework bearing in mind that:
- One per pupil rate for primary age

- May be able to have different per pupil rates for KS3 and KS4
- Social Deprivation based on FSM and/or IDACI
- EAL (optional) maximum length a pupil is eligible is 3 years from entering the English school system
- Looked After Children (optional)
- Low Cost, High Incidence SEN, using FSM and IDACI
- Lump Sum, only one value for primary and secondary phases
- Split Sites (optional)
- NNDR Rates - based on actual so no change
- PFI contracts – the affordability gap to be delegated

- 6.7 The initial issues identified so far include:
- No factor to agree funding for “temporary expansion”
 - Junior schools are a single AWPU
 - Single lump sum
 - Winners and Losers
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) impact
 - Using October data so late admissions and data cleansing
- 6.8 The new funding regime meant that there were separate methodologies for special schools and high needs pupils in mainstream – known as “place-plus”. Broadly this requires a basic flat rate of £10k per annum per place in special schools, which is then “topped up” to meet the actual cost for that category of need; this can vary school to school. This is the same for units in mainstream schools.
- 6.9 In mainstream, there is the assumption that the school contributes an element of its funding from its school budget share for that pupil to the overall assessed cost. This has been determined by the DfE as the rate for AWPU in this example this is £3,000 and also a prescribed £6,000 from its notional SEN budget factors. So if the LA determines the overall cost is £16,000 the “top-up” funding will be £16,000 less £3,000 AWPU, less £6,000 SEN budget i.e. £7,000. This top up would come from the High Needs Block of the DSG (unless the pupil is from another LA).
- 6.10 For pupils with SEN in alternative provision the base rate (i.e. equivalent to AWPU and SEN notional budget) is set at £8,000. If schools take in pupils from other LAs then they will need to deal with those LAs regarding the top up amounts, as there will no inter-authority recoupment. This clearly sets up each LA as a “commissioner” and the school as the “provider”. The place value for Post 16 pupils with SEN statements will be £10k and the same system applies.
- 6.11 The issues identified for High Needs pupils include:
- Stability of school budgets and provision#
 - Impact of vacant places
 - Speed and significance of change for both providers and commissioners
 - Debt management for providers
 - Is the notional SEN budget actually at least £6,000

The Chair agreed to extend the meeting time of the Schools Forum to 6.45pm.

- 6.12 Early years, that is nursery classes in primary schools, nursery schools and the PVI sector will be funded from the Early Years block of the DSG with no changes to the recently introduced Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF). Therefore the changes required for primary, secondary and special schools would not apply to nursery schools. However, the extra funding that the Southwark received to take it up to the 90% threshold of 3 year olds will be removed. Sharon Donno commented that in fact this was under spending anyway, although not by the full amount this will cost.
- 6.13 Fay Hammond then took the Schools Forum through the remaining changes. The changes required the maximum delegation to schools and academies. However in certain circumstances maintained schools could opt to “de-delegate” funds for certain central services and hand their “share” of the funding back to the LA. That would be a decision for the Schools Forum taken by the members of the phase it impacted upon. Examples were support for schools in difficulty, licences, contingencies etc.
- 6.14 Historical Commitments entered into by the LA/Schools Forum could be honoured until they expired but at the same cash value as 2012-13. For academies their budgets continue to be based on local formulae, no need for LACSEG but with some risk of double funding for borough wide trade union facility time and pupil number growth.
- 6.15 Finally, Fay said that work will be on-going for some months and suggested that small sub-groups of the Schools Forum might be formed to aid the development of the funding arrangements.

The Schools Forum thanked Fay and her colleagues for the presentation.

7. Reconstitution of the Schools Forum

- 7.1 A paper had been circulated with the agenda by the Clerk that reflected the changes proposed by the DfE as part of its Funding Reform agenda and also the previously agreed constitution, including roles and responsibilities.
- 7.2 In response to a comment from David Sheppard regarding not taking into account post 16 pupil numbers for determining the numbers of reps for each constituency, the Clerk said that this would be clarified with the DfE in advance of the new regulations which are not due to be published until October 2012.
- 7.3 The report was noted.

8 School Balances 2011-12

- 8.1 A report for information circulated with the agenda was noted.

9. Scheme for Financing Schools

- 9.1 A report circulated by the Clerk that set out the DfE prescribed changes to Local Authorities Scheme for Financing Schools was noted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Now set for Monday 2nd July 2012 – please note change.

Annex A

SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET

29th May 2012

VOTING MEMBERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PRESENT
Nick Tildesley	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Craig Voller	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Teresa Nouri	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Virginia Bridge	Primary School Headteacher	Substitute S Whittome
Liz Robinson	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies L Charlton
Maddy Webb	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Mark Parsons	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Grainne Grabowski	14-19 Representative	Apologies
Darren Coghlan	Vulnerable Children	Yes
Pat Tyler	Diocese Board	Apologies
Gillian Reeve	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Yes
Sharon Donno	Nursery School Headteacher	Yes
Michael Davern/Betty Joseph	Teachers Unions	BJ Yes MD Apologies
To be nominated	Support Staff Unions	
David Sheppard	Academy	Yes
Vacancy	Academy	Observer C Hutton
Elaine Garlick	Primary School Governor	Apologies
Canon Grahame Shaw	Primary School Governor	Yes
Teresa Neary	Special School Headteacher	Yes
Dr Irene Bishop	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Apologies

Senior Officers in Attendance

Kerry Crichlow	Assistant Director - Apologies
Fay Hammond	Head of Children's Services Finance - Yes
Pauline Armour	Assistant Director - Apologies
Merril Haeusler	Deputy Director - Yes
Jim Eshelby	Assistant Director - Yes
David Cross	Clerk