



Schools Forum

Date: 28 January 2021

Time: 8.30 am

Venue: Via MS Teams

Item/Paper

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Public

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2020 – HELD VIA MS TEAMS

Present

School Forum Members

Bill Dowell (Chair)

Mark Cooper – Secondary academy headteacher (joined at 9.04)

John Hitchings – Academy governor

Sandra Holloway – Primary governor

Marilyn Hunt – Primary headteacher

Shelly Hurdley – Early years representative

Donna Lewis – Academy representative

Kerry Lynch – Primary academy headteacher

Alan Parkhurst – Primary headteacher

John Parr - Secondary academy headteacher (left at 8.55)

Michael Revell – Primary governor

Mark Rogers – Primary headteacher

Charles Thomas – Professional association representative

Reuben Thorley – Secondary headteacher

Members

Cllr Nick Bardsley

Officers

Karen Bradshaw

Jo Jones

Neville Ward

Stephen Waters

Phil Wilson

Helen Woodbridge

Observers

Roger Evans

Phil Wilson went through the protocols for the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Julia Dean, Sabrina Hobbs, Stephen Matthews, David O'Toole and Andrew Smith

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising

Item 4, Page 2. It had been planned to bring the DSG recovery plan to this meeting but the work is taking longer than anticipated so will be presented to the meeting on 14 January along with the DSG monitoring referred to on Page 3.

Page 4. Update on FSM initiative. Phil Wilson advised of ongoing work. There has been communication with schools following consultation with CPG. Schools will be arranging vouchers and will receive funding from DWP via the LA. Shropshire will be including provision of FSM in the Easter holidays and

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extending the offer to pre-school settings.

John Hitchings asked about payments for COVID and advised that his school had received payment in full. Marilyn Hunt advised that her school has received £651 of her £4,000+ claim. Reuben Thorley reported a similar situation. Phil Wilson advised of a more recent announcement of the availability of further funding however conditions are restrictive.

3. School Funding Arrangements

Jo Jones presented the paper.

Schools Forum unanimously agreed that the lump sum split site factor value of £33,300 for Shrewsbury Academy and £15,000 for Ludlow Primary School continue to be allocated in 2021-22. (12 votes)

Schools Forum unanimously agreed the recommendation to transfer any remaining balance, up to 0.5% of the Schools Block, into the High Needs Block after fully funding individual schools in line with the NFF. (12 votes)

To ensure a proportional impact on all schools, in the event that the Schools Block allocation for 2021-22 is not sufficient to fully fund the local formula in line with the NFF, Schools Forum was asked to agree the recommendation to reduce the MFG as necessary, and within allowable limits, to ensure affordability.

Following this, if also required, to reduce the AWPU factor on a consistent basis across all Shropshire schools.

Reuben Thorley asked about how this could be applied. Jo Jones confirmed that there was flexibility (eg from 0.5%) in regard to this.

Schools Forum unanimously agreed to these recommendations. (12 votes)

4. Consultation on the Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2021

Phil Wilson presented the paper. He thanked schools for the excellent response rate to the consultation.

10. Maintained primary school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to de-delegate funding from maintained primary school budgets for a pupil growth contingency for maintained primary schools in 2021-22. (5 votes)

15. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to de-delegate funding from maintained primary and secondary school budgets for a centrally managed maternity budget in 2021-22. (6 votes).

20. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to de-delegate funding from maintained primary and secondary school budgets for a centrally managed trade union duties budget in 2021-22. (6 votes)

Charles Thomas, on behalf of the Unions, explained that the current level of funding is not sufficient to allow the work that is required. Charles and his

colleague Caroline Clode have two days per week facilities time and would wish to train up some colleagues to support for a further day. Phil Wilson advised that this need to be considered by Schools Forum for 2022-23.

Mark Rogers asked about how much academies pay and it was confirmed that they pay the same amount as maintained schools. Marilyn Hunt checked whether it is compulsory for academies to buy in. Charles Thomas confirmed that it is a legal requirement but an academy can choose to pay local representatives and use regional staff when necessary.

The Chair suggested that this is put on an agenda for consideration in the summer term and Phil Wilson confirmed that at the January meeting, a programme for the year will be confirmed.

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26. Maintained primary school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to de-delegate funding from primary maintained schools, holding the unit values at 2020-21 levels of a fixed element of £572.67 per site and a variable element of £4.11 per pupil. (5 votes)

35. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to top-slice a centrally held redundancy budget from maintained primary and secondary school budgets in 2021-22. (6 votes)

40. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to top-slice a centrally held statutory school finance budget from maintained primary and secondary school budgets in 2021-22. (6 votes)

44. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to top-slice a centrally held statutory HR and health and safety budget from maintained primary and secondary school budgets in 2021-22. (6 votes)

48. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum unanimously agreed to top-slice a centrally held budget for EAS from maintained primary and secondary school budgets or to fully delegate and offer buy-back arrangements in 2021-22. (6 votes)

5. **Central School Services Block 2021-22**

Stephen Waters presented the paper.

Recommendation 1 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to continue to contribute £112,110 to combined budgets as per the detail of these costs outlined in Appendix C. (10 votes)

Recommendation 2 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to contribute £963,663 to fund a portion of these ongoing pension commitments, a reduction of £2,781 compared to 2020-21. (11 votes)

Recommendation 3 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to

continue to contribute £295,350 to fund the ongoing revenue costs of funding prudential borrowing for the Monkmoor Campus Project. (11 votes)

Recommendation 4 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the increased charge of £250,120 for the provision of a School Admissions Team. (11 votes).

Recommendation 5 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the budget of £10,000 for the servicing of Schools Forum. (11 votes)

Recommendation 6 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the increased charge of £225,270 for the annual copyright licensing fees. (10 votes)

Recommendation 7 - Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to continue to contribute £660,701 to ongoing responsibilities that the local authority provides for maintained schools and academies as per the detail of these costs outlined in Appendix D. (11 votes)

Mark Rogers explained that the voting process have gone so smoothly as officers have judged the views of Schools Forum accurately and thus enabled the decisions to be taken. The chair concurred and judged that this is the result of having an experienced School Forum which is working as it should.

6. **Communications**

Phil Wilson advised that he and Steve Compton continue to have regular conversations with the DfE and will continue to raise funding issues with them.

7. **Future meeting dates:**

Thursday 14 January 2021 – subsequently cancelled

Thursday 28 January 2021 (if required) – subsequently confirmed

Thursday 18 March 2021

The meeting closed at 9.36