

Slough Schools Forum- Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013

- Present:** Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School (Chair)
Julia Shepard, Beechwood Secondary School (Vice-Chair)
Barbara Clark, Godolphin Junior School
Gillian Coffey, Lynch Hill Primary School
John Constable, Langley Grammar
Maureen Mallinson, Westgate Secondary School
Paul McAteer, Slough and Eton Secondary School
Jon Reekie, James Elliman Primary School
Mary Sparrow, Wexham Secondary School
Maggie Stacey, St Anthony's RC Primary School
Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
Jean Cameron, Slough Children's Centres
Jo Matthews, Littledown
Nicky Willis, Cippenham Primary School
Philip Gregory, Baylis Court Nursery School
- Other Attendees:** Gill Denham, Marish and Willow, Eddie Neighbour, Slough Grammar School, Angela Mellish, St Bernards
- Officers:** Robin Crofts, Michelle Perkins, Steve Elson and George Grant
- Apologies:** Helen Huntley, Kevin O'Driscoll, Virginia Barrett and Lynda Bussley

PART I

207. Apologies

Apologies were received from Father Kevin O'Driscoll, Virginia Barrett, Helen Huntley and Lynda Bussley.
The Chair also welcomed Gill Denham.

208. Declarations of Interest

None

209. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Page 1: Apologies from Lynda Bussley to be added. Maggie Waller noted twice in the attendee list.

Page 2: Replace 'will lead to a possible redundancy' to 'could lead to a possible redundancy' .

Page 3: George Grant will follow up with Mark Taylor and ensure that his response to the Primary schools' questions is forthcoming prior to his departure from SBC. George Grant also reported that he will be attending future Schools Forum meetings, this continuity is welcomed by the Chair. George Grant also reported that the Principal Accountant interviews have been scheduled.

Maggie Waller and Jo Rockall wrote to the DfE, NCSL, Unions and various networks regarding sourcing some research for the funding formula review work. The most positive response was received from ASCL; their funding specialist (Sam Ellis) has offered to come to Slough and meet with Maggie Waller, Jo Rockall, Maggie Stacey, Steve Elson and Robin Crofts to discuss further. A proposal and specification will come back to Schools Forum in May. Discussed the possibility of the procurement coming through Slough Learning Partnership. Schools Forum endorsed that they are happy for the meeting to go ahead.

Page 4: Complications and complexities around the high needs post 16 funding were discussed. Steve Elson advised that the EFA will provide a consolidated funding statement to academies at the end of April. He advised Schools Forum members that he would be happy to answer theoretical questions.

Page 5: George Grant will progress on the matter of financial training for headteachers and feed back at a future meeting with ideas of how it could work.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record with the amendments noted above.

Matters Arising:

Steve Elson talked Schools Forum through the pieces of work he carried out on School Budgets and circulated the figures. Discussion took place around the various figures and concerns were expressed about the long term implications on SEN funding, in particular for the large group of young people in Slough who have special educational needs but not statements. It was noted that most secondary schools are just under the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG). It was noted that the Task and Finish group had always been concerned about impact pre MFG but also that the MFG has mitigated the impact on the grammar schools. Steve Elson concluded that the key change is due to the Historical Mainstreamed Grants being re-distributed through the new formula. There are also changes that affected individual schools such as the move to IDACI as a deprivation factor and the movement to High Needs Block top-up funding for statemented pupils.

Further detail was requested to be added to the models provided and Steve Elson agreed to review these and the final formula information as submitted to the DfE will be distributed. Steve Elson will add a further column on pre MFG figures and Michelle Perkins will circulate electronic copies of the models with the draft minutes.

It was also agreed that Steve Elson would provide explanations of the formula for High Needs, Post-16 and Early Years in a 1 hour briefing session for Schools Forum members. A suitable date will be confirmed.

Further work is to continue as part of the research being explored with Sam Ellis (ASCL funding specialist).

An item on the High Needs block to go on the agenda for the May meeting of Schools Forum.

210. DfE Review of 2013-14 Schools Funding Arrangements - Consultation Response

Maggie Waller reported that a small group met on 12th March to agree the response to the DfE which needs to be sent in on 26th March. Maggie Waller asked Schools Forum to endorse the contents of the response and welcomed any comments. The following changes were decided:

Question 16 – needs to include a sentence about how the EAL factor does not work for Slough and also Jo Rockall referred to the issues around SEN funding for primaries. It was

noted that the form does not provide a section for any other comments but this can be added into question 16.

Include a comment about the lump sum in relation to small schools (i.e Colnbrook) in an area like Slough which has mostly medium/large schools and how we have not been able to rectify this due to the constraints of the funding model.

Section 4 (Schools Forums) – An issue had been raised in the meeting on 12th March about Schools Forum being insufficiently accessible to the public. The possibility of changing the venue and timings of Schools Forum was discussed and whilst the Forum wishes to make the meetings accessible, it was concluded that time and venue contribute to the effective functioning of the Forum. Also all papers and meetings are on the SBC website and visitors can easily be accommodated. Beechwood conference centre staff have been advised that meetings are open to the public.

211. Schools Forum Membership March 2013

The current membership was circulated and Maggie Waller took Schools Forum through the contents.

The following was agreed:

- Academy proprietors be asked to elect an additional academy representative (giving 8 academy members) and to consider this being a secondary governor representative to reflect phase balance.
- Nicky Willis was approved as substitute for Barbara Clark and Gill Denham for Gillian Coffey.
- One current vacancy in the maintained membership will not be filled (leaving 8 members).
- The Primary Headteachers group is asked to elect 2 members to fill the 2 maintained schools vacancies, being mindful of the balance of types of schools in electing those members.

Actions: Maggie Waller will write to headteachers of each academy asking them to refer to the appropriate Chair asking them for nominations, preferably for a secondary governor. Nominations will be brought back to Schools Forum in May.

Primary Headteachers' group to elect two maintained schools members.

212. Academies Update

No formal updates.

47% of pupils in Slough are now attending an Academy.

When James Elliman converts on 1st April this will tip the percentage then the majority of pupils will be attending academies.

Further updates will be given as they arise.

213. 2012-13 Work Programme and Key Decisions Log

May – add item on funding formula, Michelle Perkins.

Maggie Waller reiterated the purpose of the key decisions log: to provide a point of reference for key decisions and issues from Schools Forum.

The next meeting will take place on 8th May at 8am for 8:15am at Beechwood.

The meeting started at 8am and finished at 9:20am