

Bristol Schools' Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 18.15 hrs at City Hall

Present:

Claire Banks	Headteacher, St Werburgh's Primary
Jamie Barry	Headteacher, Parson Street Primary
Victoria Boomer	Headteacher, Oasis Academy John Williams
Karen Brown	Governor, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Tim Browse	Headteacher, Hillcrest Primary
Jo Butler	Headteacher, Cotham School
Colin Butterworth	Governor, Endeavour Academy Trust
Emma Cave	Governor, Claremont School
Yvonne Craggs	Governor, Elmlea Infants School
Marion Curran	14-19 Citywide Partnership
Graham Diles	Deputy Headteacher, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Peter Evans	Headteacher, Knowle DGE
Lindsey Fuller	Headteacher, Speedwell Nursery
Mary-Jane Hinchliffe	Headteacher, St Annes Infants
Tracy Jones	Headteacher, Bannerman Road Primary
Tom Merchant	Representative, Support Staff
Aileen Morrison	Headteacher, St Matthias Park
Sam Packer	PVI, Early Years
Alistair Perry	Colston Girls School
Alistair Pickering	Diocese of Bristol Board of Education
Cllr Ruth Pickersgill	Governor, Rosemary Nursery
Carew Reynell (Chair)	Governor, Henbury Secondary
Sarah Rupprecht	Governor, Elmlea Junior
Ann Rutherford	Headteacher, Filton Avenue Primary
Cedric Sanguinol	Governor Representative, Bishop Road Primary
Christine Townsend	Governor, Whitehall Primary
Michelle Wills	Representative, Teaching Professionals

In attendance:

Billy Forsythe	Clerk to Schools Forum
Cllr Claire Hiscott	Member for Education & Skills
Paul Jacobs	Service Director, Education & Skills
Sally Jaeckle	Head of Early Years Services
Annette Jones	Head of Specialist Education & Access
Wendy Welsh	Corporate Finance
Travis Young	Corporate Finance

Observers:

Chris Pring (Cabot Primary), Claire Pring (St Barnabus), Simon Bowker, Kevin Jay, Anna Stevens, Pepa Aguila-Soto, Sara Doherty, Siobhan Taylor, Michael Pilcher

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and introductions</p>	
<p>The Chair opened the meeting at 18:15</p>	
<p>2. Forum standing business</p>	
<p>Apologies Received from Ebrima Bojang, Alan Gould, Paul Smith, Wendy Weston & David Yorath, Clerk confirmed meeting was quorate. New member Peter Evans was welcomed to the meeting. No declarations of interest were expressed. Expenses – BF reminded colleagues that parking expenses could be reclaimed from WW.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November</p>	
<p>The following changes were advised and accepted. Claire Banks, Anne Rutherford, & Alistair Pickering had attended the meeting Page 4 Section 6 Early help were asking for £280K not £200K. Page 5 3rd para from end – ESG should be DSG Minutes of the meeting were then accepted as accurate. Matters arising: Item 5 – PJ advised the revised structure will be sent out with the minutes. Item 6 – Membership list of Inclusion Group was issued. Point was raised that some areas seem under-represented. PJ will liaise with JB. Letter to parents re High Needs was raised. AJ confirmed it will be included with the minutes as a draft. De-delegation of BIS funding was raised. Forum asked for details of how this £20K is being used.</p>	<p>BF PJ BF PJ</p>
<p>4. Correspondence</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
<p>5. Budget Monitor</p>	
<p>WW presented the report to update the Forum on the proposed expenditure of the DSG for 2016/17. The LA has challenged the DfE’s interpretation of the Early Year’s census figures and is awaiting a response. The main overspend area is the High Needs block. PJ advised that the authority is contesting the number of GFE places allowed for by the DfE. Phase 2 of the national Funding Formula is out for consultation with responses by 22nd March. The LA is holding a briefing meeting for Heads and governors on 24th January. This is a major reform and there are different views across the country.</p>	

<p>The Forum previously agreed not to change the formula factors and the de-delegation vote was taken at the last meeting.</p> <p>The Forum noted the report.</p>	
<p>6. Schools Block Budget</p>	
<p>PJ presented the report and the Forum was asked to approve a number of recommendations.</p> <p>2.1 Growth fund – proposal is to revisit the policy and retain the £3m with any underspend to be used against the High Needs overspend.</p> <p>2.2 Falling rolls funding is not really needed but a review of non-domestic rates is planned and the LA is proposing to retain the £0.4m to use against any rates increase.</p> <p>2.3 Proposing the same total amount for the centrally retained element.</p> <p>2.4 Approve the allocation of general duties funding to LA.</p> <p>2.5 The ESG is not ring fenced and the funding has decreased over the years. As schools academise the grant reduces. The LA has managed the reduction by economising and trimming services. The statutory duties of the LA have not been defined yet by the EFA. Government is proposing to remove ESG and to partially replace it with a number of different funds for LAs but the details are not yet clear. A transitional element from April to August is proposed and the amount has now been published. There will also be a school improvement grant which could be based on the number of Primary schools that are rated as not good. A Strategic fund will also be available on a bid basis. The LA is asking Forum to agree a further de-delegation of £36.06 per pupil to make up the shortfall in ESG. This will still be £0.5 m short of what is needed. This funding will cover core services that are offered free to maintained schools such as 3 core visits.</p> <p>2.6 The LA is also asking for the Early Help underspend of £280K to be given to Early help to enable them to support schools through the coming year and also support an element of the safeguarding team.</p> <p>2.7 Note the formula values in the Appendix.</p> <p>The Chair proposed to discuss and vote in sections: 1&2, 3&4, 5,6,&7</p> <p>2.1 & 2.2 Growth Fund & Falling Rolls – It was asked if the growth fund would be available to Special Schools. AJ confirmed that any growth for special schools would be agreed through the High needs Block.</p> <p>The question of PRUs paying rates was raised and PJ agreed to investigate</p> <p>WW advised that £1.6m of the growth fund was already committed to Primaries and Secondary schools could be asking for growth fund.</p> <p>It was asked if the cost of rates was known and if schools have to apply for the money.</p>	<p>PJ</p>

PJ advised that some schools could be looking at a 27% increase and they would have to advise the LA.

2.3 & 2.4 Centrally retained funds. A question was raised re AWPU values as KS4 seems to have been ignored. TY advised that KS4 has been improved.

VB asked about admission costs to Academies who buy via TwS.

CT added that there still seemed to be unlawful admission practices taking place.

PJ advised that Councillors are looking at admission policy and there will be a consultation with schools.

2.5 De-delegation PJ advised that all maintained schools including Nurseries, PRUs & Specials are entitled to vote on this de-delegation.

GD advised that Secondary heads are monitoring very tight budgets and feel strongly that any additional de-delegation is unaffordable. All Secondary heads are totally against this proposal.

PJ added that he had had 26 responses to his email consultation with only 5 in favour of the proposal.

MJH asked what the outcome would be if the money was not de-delegated. PJ advised that he would have to re-shape services to live within the budget and the traded offer from TwS would be amended with some services offered on a traded basis.

Concern was expressed on the lack of detail of the outcome of the decision. A request was made to defer the decision. PJ advised this was not possible because of DfE deadlines. Some schools felt in a difficult position as they had benefited in the past from LA help that would now not be available.

2.6 Early help – questions were raised on possibility of using some of the money for transition.

Voting took place:

2.1 – 21 in favour none against

2.2 – 23 in favour none against

2.3 – 21 in favour none against

2.4 - 21 in favour none against

2.5 – 13 are eligible to vote – 11 voted against de-delegation. PJ agreed to send out a strategy briefing to schools advising of the outcome.

2.6 (1) £280K for Early help transition - none in favour

2.6 (2) £280K for High Needs offset - none in favour

2.6 (3) split £280K between the two - 21 in favour with a priority on Safeguarding in Education capacity within the Early Help funding

2.7 – Noted

PJ

<p>7. High Needs Update</p> <p>AJ gave an update on the report</p> <p>Currently projected £3.21m overspend in 2016/17, with a further overspend in 2017/18, mostly on Top Up funding. Mitigating actions have worked to reduce the overspend but not by enough.</p> <p>Potentially an additional 300 placements in City of Bristol College that the EFA is refusing to fund in 2017/18 due to lag funding. The LA is making strong representations to government that this is unfair.</p> <p>The Inclusion Reference Group is operational and an Inclusion Audit will come out this term. The main focus is on Top Up and the IRG will be looking at proposals to make the system more efficient.</p> <p>The Secondary Panel has been successful in reducing the number of exclusions.</p> <p>A meeting is being held at City Hall on 26th January to look at options and AJ will bring a further report to the Forum on proposals to deal with the overspending.</p> <p>PJ added that the Government is making a one off capacity grant to the LA of £130K and the SEN grant will continue for a further year. Work is also planned on the issue of special schools and PFI sites.</p> <p>Forum noted the budget forecasts</p> <p>The planned further work was noted</p> <p>Forum did not support a proposal to curtail MFG protection for Special Schools/PRUS</p> <p>IRG is requested to carry out further analysis but issues around membership need to be resolved. JB happy to help to recruit.</p>	<p>AJ</p>
<p>8. EY Budget Planning</p> <p>SJ presented the report and reported she was cautiously optimistic. The key messages are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one base rate for all providers of EY • a cap on retained money • no change to 2 year old funding • an uplift to the hourly rate applicable from April • a EY pupil premium <p>The DFE have a better understanding of the role of Nursery Schools and have agreed £1.3m for Bristol EWY Nurseries for 3 years.</p> <p>The proposals will go for consultation in early February and will be discussed at the three area network meetings. SJ will keep Forum updated.</p> <p>Forum were happy to note the report and thanked SJ for her significant role in working</p>	<p>SJ</p>

with the DFE	
9. AOB	
Forum asked about the draft briefing letter from schools to parents. AJ advised that the parent partnerships are working on this and it will be produced very shortly.	

The meeting closed at 20:45hrs

DRAFT