

MILTON KEYNES' SCHOOLS FORUM

STANTONBURY CAMPUS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 13 MAY 2010 AT 3.00 PM

PRESENT: **Primary School Representatives**
Tony Draper – Water Hall Primary School
Paul Hussey – Caroline Haslett Primary School
Maxine Low – Pepper Hill First School
Jane Miller – Middleton Primary School
Pauline Pickard – The Willows School and Early Years Centre

Secondary School Representatives
Michael Manley – St Paul's Catholic School
Glen Martin – Shenley Brook End School

Special School Representative
Liz Bull – Slated Row School

Primary School Governors
John Howe – Loughton School

Secondary School Governor
Peter Kendrew – Lord Grey School (CHAIR)

Catholic Diocese Authority
Kate Harper – Northampton Diocesan

Observers
Councillor Sam Crooks, Leader of the Council

OFFICERS: Kathy Bassett (Finance Manager, CYPS)
Michael Bracey (Assistant Director – Partnerships, Commissioning
and Performance)
Penni Powers (Finance Manager, Schools and Training)
Will Spurgeon (Assistant Director – Targeted Services)

CLERK: Wendy Burrage (PA to Assistant Director Partnerships,
Commissioning and Performance)

SF 224 APOLOGIES

Jim Armstrong – ATL (NB: Jim has been nominated by the Teacher's Professional Associations to serve for a further three years on the Schools Forum)
Ken Behrens – Loughton School
Marie Gordon – Knowles Nursery School
Lynne Johnson – Pre-School Learning Alliance
Ken Leaver – Ousedale School
Sarah Parker – Denbigh School
Gail Tolley – Director of Children and Young People's Services

SF 225 MINUTES

That the minutes of the Schools Forum held on 2 March 2010 be approved as a correct record with the addition to those present of Kate Harper, Northampton Diocesan who did attend the meeting.

SF 226 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (Michael Bracey)

The Chair of the Forum informed he was drawing to the end of his second period as a governor and that he did not intend to stand again, this will mean he can no longer chair the Schools Forum. He was, however, able to chair up to and including July 2010.

The Schools Forum considered appointments for the chair and vice-chair for the forthcoming year and the following candidates were proposed and seconded.

- RESOLVED:
1. That Peter Kendrew remain as Chair of the Schools Forum until July 2010; and
 2. That Michael Manley be appointed Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum for the year 2010/11.

SF 227 CONSTITUTION (Michael Bracey)

The Forum were asked to agree an update to the membership and procedural arrangements of the Schools Forum (Item 4 refers). The purpose of the change was to increase the membership of the Schools Forum by one to take account of the requirement to have an academy representative as a full voting member, plus formatting changes intended to make the constitution easier to read.

Discussion followed on:

- Recruiting governing body representatives from the primary, secondary and special sectors and how this could be changed to encourage better representation. The Forum felt that it would be better to poll chairs of governors by writing direct to each school in the event of a selection exercise being necessary.
- Governor representation for special schools.

- RESOLVED:
1. That 4.2.4 be replaced with wording as shown in 4.2.1 with the word “nursery” being altered to “special”;
 2. That special school representatives agree attendance between themselves for each Schools Forum meeting;
 3. That a further sub-bullet point be added for the Academy;
 4. That chairs of governors poll for representation of the Schools Forum.

SF 228 APPEALS PANEL – CLAW BACK OF EXCESS SURPLUS BALANCES (Penni Powers)

The Forum were requested to agree members to sit on the Appeals Panel which will be responsible for hearing appeals against the claw back of excess surplus balances from schools (Item 5 refers). It was proposed that all appeals would be heard on one day to be held at the end of June/beginning of July. Ideally, three headteachers, three governors and three non-school representatives will make up the panel to enable a good mix of members and so ensure schools are not compromised (Terms of Reference for this Appeals Panel shown at Annex 1 to Item 5 of the agenda).

RESOLVED: 1. That the following Schools Forum members make up the Appeals Panels:

Headteachers:

Glen Martin, Secondary School representative

Jane Miller, Primary School representative

Governors:

Peter Kendrew, Secondary Governors representative

John Howe, Primary Governors representative

Non-School Representatives:

Kate Harper, Catholic Diocese Authority

2. That the Finance Manager, Schools Finance and Training makes contact direct to organise dates and times of panels etc.

SF 229 DFE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUNDING (Penni Powers)

The Forum's views were requested on the current DFE consultation on the future distribution of school funding.

Members of the Forum were advised that the consultation seeks views on the proposed arrangements for distributing the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to Local Authorities from 2011-12 onwards. At this time there are no indicative allocations and the proposed formula is split into five main elements (Item 6 refers).

The Forum noted that funding targeted towards deprivation would still be £5m short of what the Government expected in Milton Keynes. Although Milton Keynes is not one of the most deprived areas in the country, it did receive pockets of deprivation funding.

Forum members made the following comments:

- Free school meal allocation does not accurately reflect deprivation,

we need to look at proxy indicators or advise the Department for Education (DfE) that we do not think free school meal allocations is a good indicator of deprivation.

- We should consider the number of factors of deprivation used in the past not solely free school meals.
- Milton Keynes figures do not reflect those being educated outside of this area.
- Extent to which the higher level of statemented children affect deprivation figures.
- The needs in the Local Authority not reflected nationally, the numbers of pupils coming into Milton Keynes are hidden, some statistics show a decrease!
- Issue around mobility in Milton Keynes, work done recognises a mobile society, but this is not reflected in the Government's definition of deprivation.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Manager, Schools Finance and Training respond on the consultation to the DfE indicating the Schools Forum's views.

SF 230

NON-MAINTAINED AND INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL FEES (Will Spurgeon)

Members received an analysis of the current recent expenditure on places for pupils with LDD/SEN in non-maintained and independent special schools, as requested at the March meeting of the Schools Forum.

The Assistant Director Targeted Services advised on the background and added that although there had been a small decrease in monies spent on non-maintained and special schools this year, it is a volatile budget and the increase of one child to the out-borough list can have a significant impact on expenditure. Therefore, it is not certain that this reduction can be maintained (Item 7 refers).

Members of the Forum raised the following points and these were discussed:

- The number of students with BESD that are going to out of area facilities.
- Out of area charges not being significantly different to those in local schools.
- Young people with BESD tending to leave at the age of transfer which leaves secondary provision with surplus places.
- The need to meet parents at an earlier stage before they lose confidence in the local education system.
- The comparison between Milton Keynes and its statistical neighbours. There was a recognition that these problems challenge all local authorities.

The Assistant Director Targeted Services concluded:

- Although the trend is currently down for year 11 pupils, this could easily change as new cases are added particularly at years 6 and 7, which is when parents generally choose to place their children 'out of authority';
- locality working may enable schools to become more effective at sharing costs, this is part of a much wider debate currently being looked at by Children and Young People's Services (CYPS);
- a part of any monies saved should be considered for investment in our local special schools so that they are able to support the needs of more complex learners; and
- the main thrust should be to strengthen our mainstream schools to enable them to retain the learners with mild/moderate needs so that special schools have the capacity to support those with the most complex needs.

The Special School Representative raised concerns regarding her school and the Assistant Director Targeted Services agreed to discuss this further outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum receive a report at the September meeting on a revised funding formula for mainstream schools to increase the level of delegation for those with SEN/LDD without having the need for a statement.

SF 231 INCLUSION STRATEGY UPDATE (Will Spurgeon)

The Forum received an update on the progress of the inclusion strategy and the recommendations taken by Cabinet on 13 April 2010 (point 5 of Item 8 refers).

The Assistant Director Targeted Services advised:

- Mainstream schools be given a funding model with greater delegation of SEN/LDD funds giving greater autonomy to intervene at an earlier stage.
- The formula would build on a range of proxy measures. The Forum could receive a single model or range of options to consider at the Autumn meeting.

Members of the Forum made the following comments:

- The decision making process of the Special Schools' consultation was questioned. There was discussion about who makes decisions, one member felt that headteachers have had to raise concerns in order to enable discussion.
- The Assistant Director was asked about the proposed changes to the age range of one special school and its impact on provision for very young children.
- The Assistant Director was asked for an update on the progress of the

nurture group initiative. Funding of £180,000 would be allocated once the selection process for schools is complete (first week of June).

RESOLVED: That, at its September meeting, the Schools Forum receive a revised funding model relating to SEN and based on a range of proxy measures.

SF 232 SECTION 251 STATEMENT (Kathy Bassett)

The Schools Forum were informed that the Budget Statement provided to the Department for Education under Section 251 (previously known as Section 52) had been sent.

SF 233 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2009/10 (Kathy Bassett)

The Schools Forum noted the Provisional Outturn in respect of the DSG for 2009/10.

SF 234 FORWARD PLANNING

July 2010

- Final DSG Settlement
- School Balances and Potential Clawback and recommendations on how to relocate this Clawback
- Licensed Deficits and Schools in Financial Difficulty Payments

September 2010

- EOTAS
- Formula change consultation
- Early Years education
- Constitution

December 2010

- Results of Formula Change Consultation
- Scheme for Financing School
- Central Expenditure (asked for by SF in March)

March 2011

- Schools Budgets

SF 235 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

SF 236 PROPOSED DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Venue : Stantonbury Campus (unless advised otherwise)

3 – 5 pm Thursday 8 July 2010

3 – 5 pm Thursday 23 September 2010
3 – 5 pm Thursday 9 December 2010 *

*Stantonbury Campus is unable to host the December 2010 meeting;
therefore alternative accommodation must be sought.

The meeting was closed at 4.50 pm