



Minutes of the meeting of the SCHOOLS FORUM held on THURSDAY
22 FEBRUARY 2007 at 5.10 pm

Present: Primary School Representatives
R Morgan - Giffard Park Primary School
T Winter - Monkston Primary School

Secondary School Representatives
K Leaver - Ousedale School
M Manley - St. Paul's Catholic School
M Wasserberg - Stantonbury Campus

School Governors
C Rogers (Chair) - Secondary School Sector
P Kendrew - Secondary School Sector
S Tucker - Primary School Sector
N Jackman – Special School Sector

Special School Representative
S Bell - The Gatehouse School

Oxford Diocese
R Davey

Non-School Representative
J Armstrong - Teachers' Association

Officers: V Gwynn (Corporate Director Learning and Development),
D Gamble (Group Director [School Improvement and Planning]),
R Schmidt (Head of Technical Accounting), P Powers (Technical
Accountant), D Symons (Divisional Accountant [Schools and
Capital]) and S Parker (Senior Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Sandra Clark

Apologies: S Hopkinson (Wyvern First School), N Holt (Two Mile Ash) and Rev.
P Smith (Primary School Governor)

SF32 MINUTES

The Forum considered the Minutes of the meeting held on
7 December 2006, noting that the meeting had been inquorate.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 7 December 2006, be agreed as a correct record.
2. That the recommendations at SF21 and SF22 of the Minutes be approved.

SF33 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED -

That M Manley (St. Paul's Catholic School) be elected as Vice-Chair of the Forum for a period of two years.

SF34 SECONDARY ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION / BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

The Forum received a report on the options for the future management of the secondary alternative education budget, to be implemented in April 2007.

RESOLVED -

1. That the work which had taken place with secondary Headteachers and officers to progressively reshape the nature of provision in support of pupil behaviour management, be noted.
2. That the mechanism for delivering funding to the partnership of local secondary schools and the Local Authority, in order to pursue a new way of working with Alternative Education, be approved.
3. That funds be devolved to a single lead school in the first instance, with a view to delegation in subsequent years when working practices and protocols were established.

SF35 FUNDING AND CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL MEALS

The Forum considered a report on the proposed changes to the allocation of Free School Meals funding in 2007/08 for the primary sector to ensure the continued provision of free school meals, and the review of the school meals contract(s) from April 2008.

The Forum noted the following:

- Free school meals were funded in Milton Keynes on the basis of eligibility rather than take up.
- The financial pressures on catering provision for Milton Keynes had caused the two main school providers - Synergy Catering DSO and Cygnet Catering Ltd - to ask for higher meal prices in 2007/08.

- No figures are collected centrally on the take up of school meals, however, the take up is known to fluctuate from month to month. There is a need for reliable data.

RESOLVED -

1. That delegated Free School Meals funding be increased from £1.84 to £1.90 per meal / per pupil / per day for primary schools for 2007/08, and primary schools make up the difference from their own funds if necessary.
2. That work needs to be carried out to review whether or not to change the formula to allocate Free School Meals funding based on take up of free school meals rather than eligibility.
3. That the report on the longer term plan to reorganise the catering contracts be noted.
4. That the rationale for the differential between primary and secondary funding of free schools meals, be re-examined.

SF36

REVENUE FUNDING FOR NEWLY OPENED SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Forum considered a report which advised of a shortfall between the funding formula for newly opened secondary schools, and legitimate anticipated expenditure for 2007/08 at Hazeley and Oakgrove secondary schools.

The Forum noted the need to re-examine the funding formula for new secondary schools to reflect changes in circumstances.

RESOLVED -

That the current funding formula for new schools be modified, in order to allocate appropriate funding (as a one off payment over two years) for 2007/08 to both Hazeley and Oakgrove secondary schools, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

SF37

TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME

The Forum considered a report which asked for agreement to a request from the Trades Unions for paid Facilities time, in respect of support for school based staff who were members of UNISON and the GMB.

RESOLVED -

1. That agreement, in principle, be given for arrangements to be made for an amount of £10,000 to be allocated for 2007/08 from the headroom within the retained funding for Facilities time from the Dedicated Schools Grant in respect of UNISON and the GMB.
2. That the allocation of Trade Union Facilities in respect of non-teaching school staff, be reviewed by Human Resources this

year, taking account of Union membership activity and workload within schools to ascertain the reasonable paid facilities time to be granted to representatives of the Council's recognised Trade Unions.

SF38

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2007/08

The Forum considered a report requesting agreement to the distribution of the Schools budget for the financial year 2007/08.

The Forum noted the feedback from the Funding Sub-Group's consideration on the methods of allocating any available headroom.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Dedicated Schools Grant estimate of £140.101m for purposes of setting the Schools budget for 2007/08, be approved.
2. That the linking of the increase in the funding for private, voluntary and independent early years providers to the increase in the AWPU rate, be approved.
3. That the funding of the Looked After Children Education Team from the Schools budget, be approved, in principle, subject to more detail being provided to the Heads Strategy Group and Milton Keynes Secondary Heads on the make up of the Looked After Children Team, and how its school support work directly affects the raising of educational standards of Looked After Children.
4. That £200,000 be approved as a provisional sum in the budget, pending a review of children placed in external establishments and a report back to the Schools Forum.
5. That the centrally retained contingencies be approved as indicated in section 3.1 of the report, subject to the Inclusion Contingency being included within the funds potentially devolved to secondary schools (minute SF34 refers).
6. That the changes to the funding formula to permit a recognition that for new and re-organising schools funding factors should reflect the changes in circumstance from one academic year to another, be approved.
7. That an increase in the compensation funding to Oakgrove and Hazeley secondary schools, be approved.
8. That an increase in deprivation funding within the Individual Schools Budget, be approved.
9. That an increase in the rate of funding for Free School Meals within the primary sector, as set out in Items 6 and 9c, be approved.

10. That any remaining headroom be distributed though AWPU and place funding increases.

SF39

STANDARDS FUND 2007/08

The Forum considered a report which:

- (a) Informed the Schools Forum of the structure and purpose of the Standards Fund for 2007/08, the level of Government grant and the Local Authority (LA) matched funding.
- (b) Set out the proposed method of allocation of Standards Funds to schools and the proposed level of centrally retained funding held by the LA.
- (c) Requested the Forum to consider a request that the Safety Centre is allocated an increase in funding of £25,750 from the Primary Schools' element of the School Development Grant to support its continued operation, which would mean an overall increase in the "top slice" from the School Development Grant from £55,000 to £80,750 for 2007/08.
- (d) Requested the Forum to consider various options produced by Milton Keynes Music Service for allocating increased funding to develop new instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2.

RESOLVED -

1. That the structure, changes to and purpose of the Standards Fund be noted.
2. That the proposals for allocation of grant to schools and proposals for the level of Local Authority retained funds, be approved.
3. That schools be given the option of opting out of devolved funding for music services, with the default position that schools would buy back the service in 2007/08.
4. That the increase in the base cost of the Safety Centre services be not approved, but that schools be given the option of whether or not to buy in to increased services offered by the Safety Centre.

SF40

INFORMATION ITEMS

RESOLVED -

That, due to the lack of time, the following information items be noted, without consideration:

- How the Schools Forum feedbacks to colleagues (Item 10).
- Budget monitoring (Item 11).
- DfES Consultations (Item 12).

- Deadline for submission of budget plans (Item 13).

SF41

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED -

That future meetings be held, as follows:

- (a) Thursday 19 April 2007;
- (b) Thursday 12 July 2007;
- (c) Thursday 4 October 2007; and
- (d) Thursday 6 December 2007.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.45 PM