

## **SCHOOLS FORUM**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November Council Offices – Badminton Road**

#### **PRESENT:**

Sarah Lovell (Chair)	Finance Director, Cabot Learning Federation
Dave Baker (Vice Chair)	CEO, Olympus Academy Trust
Nicky Edwards	Natural Choice Nurseries
Kim Garland	Headteacher, Brimsham Green
David Jenkins	Governor – Crossways Schools
Louise Leader	Headteacher, Pathways Learning Centre
Pippa Osborne	Headteacher Christ Church Junior School
Diane Owen	Chair, Kings Oak Academy
Susie Weaver	Executive Principal, Cabot Learning Federation
Bernice Webber	Headteacher, Old Sodbury Primary School
Richard Aquilina	Governor - Bailey's Court
Linda Porter	Governor - Watermore
Mark Fremman	Headteacher – St Michael's CE Primary
Will Roberts	CEO – CSET
Julia Anwar	Director of Finance - OAT

#### **Officers:**

Mustafa Salih, Head of Financial Management and Business Support  
Hilary Smith – Head of Education Learning and Skills (CAH)  
Caroline Warren, Finance Business Partner – CAH Children  
Management Accounts  
Stuart Thomas, SEND Financial Planning Lead

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees were welcomed by the Chair.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Steve Moir, Karl Hemmings, Malcolm Strange, Erica Williams, Carl Lander, Keith Lawrence, Clare Haughton, Susan Brobyn

#### **3. EVACUATION PROCESS**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure

#### **4. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

None.

## 5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Actions looked at from previous meeting:

- Pupil Projections/Early years and Ready Reckoner/Independent places reports are on the forward plan and will be presented in January's Forum.
- *Carried forward to the January meeting* All actions from Schools in Financial Difficulty (SIFD) report were discussed at the council on 5<sup>th</sup> November and are being actioned following previous Forum feedback.
- Early Years Consultation – HS to pick this up with Rachel Webb to arrange a meeting and provide a paper for the Forum in January. *Carried forward to the January meeting*

Membership Update – The Forum has now 24 members out of 25 (not including substitute members). All members and service periods will be listed on the Schools Forum webpage.

New members joining the Schools Forum (4 year period from the 21/11/2019):

- Karl Hemmings – Headteacher Emersons Green – representing the Primary Maintained Sector.
- Susan Brobyn – Director of Finance CSET – representing the Academies replacing Simon McSorley.
- Stuart Evans – SGS – representing post 16 – replacing Penny Chislett.

The Chair formally thanked Stuart Thomas for the successful recruitment of Forum members.

## 6. SCHOOLS BUDGET CONSULTATION OPTIONS – Mustafa Salih

A brief update was provided regarding two well attended Heads/Governors briefings held this week.

There was feedback that Governors and Headteachers needed to be better engaged throughout the year instead of having a consultation on a yearly basis.

The consultation deadline had been extended to midday today in response to feedback. The results were quickly turned around in the afternoon to present to forum. Handouts were given showing consultation feedback that included direct responses and then draft weightings were provided with the caveat that further analysis was required to ensure 100% accuracy..

## Summary of direct responses presented at the meeting

	Primary – 93 schools		Secondary- 17 schools		Special – 6 schools	
	Responses Received	Not received	Responses Received	Not Received	Responses Received	Not Received
Responses	63	30	16	1	1	5
Question	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
1	51	10	16	0	1	0
2	22	40	10	6	1	0
3	40	19	8	8	1	0
4	20	36	9	7	0	0

*Provisional Raw scores – need further checking*

### Question 1

Positive response from both Primary and Secondary in asking for the continuation of the £2.9m transfer, as in previous years.

### Question 2

Majority of Primary schools were not in favour of the additional transfer of £2m. More Secondary Schools said yes to this option than no.

### Question 3

Majority of primary schools favoured the national funding formula, The secondary schools were evenly split.

### Question 4

Majority of primary schools said no to the uplift. Most secondaries said yes to this method of funding.

David Jenkins (DJ) – Why was there a poor response from Special Schools?

Kim Garland (KG) – Special Schools potentially felt the consultation wasn't fully relevant to them as it was about a transfer of funding from schools block – this was the feedback from the Secondary Heads' meeting.

Mark Freeman (MF) – The government purpose of this extra money is to get more schools up above the minimum amount of £3,750. There are a significant number of schools in South Glos below the minimum amount. Aren't we missing the point of this extra money?

Pippa Osbourne (PO) – Could we do a mixture of Uplift and National Funding Formula (NFF)?

Nicky Edwards (NE) – Why isn't the £2.8m additional money for the High Needs Block being used to pay for the additional initiatives. What if the additional £2.8m is used to pay for the SEND initiatives, and the council continues with the increasing deficit?

MS – The current overspend is £5m per annum and the £2.8m increase in the high needs block needs to stay within that block to prevent the deficit from getting any bigger. The council needs to minimise its exposure. The council and its chief executive see this deficit as a big risk.

Diane Owen (DO) – We need a robust approach to show schools that the £2m money is being spent in the correct way, regular monitoring. How can we be sure that the money is being put to good use?

MS – I do agree with your comments.

DO – The Cluster Fund has been running a year, we need to have feedback on whether its delivering results.

DB – The likelihood of agreement to a £4.9m transfer from the secretary of a state may be *unlikely*.

MF – Has much thought gone into the £2m initiatives. I'm not 100% sure that the Cluster group will deliver future savings, there hasn't been sufficient time yet to provide the evidence.

**Question 1** – The £2.9m previous transfer to continue

**Forum all in favour.**

**Question 2** – Supporting it – with more enhanced detail and reporting back/monitoring for Forum meetings. £2 million from the Schools Block to the High needs Block,

**9 votes in favour**

**5 votes to retain the money in the Schools Block**

**1 voter abstained**

Dave Baker (DB) – With an uplift, schools in the most deprived areas would receive hardly any extra funding from the previous year

MS – If you're trying to get more schools above the minimum then the NFF would support more of this.

A Table summarising the number of schools above/below/at per pupil minimum amount under all 6 options.

Minimum per pupil- number of schools.	OPTION 1F - Transfer £2.9m + an additional £2m, no Minimum per pupil uplifts and MFG @ +0.5%				OPTION 2F - Transfer of £2.9m, no Minimum per pupil uplifts and MFG @ +0.5%				OPTION 3F - No block transfer, no Minimum per pupil uplifts and MFG @ +0.5%				OPTION 1U - Transfer of £2.9m transfer+ further £2m; with minimum per pupil funding and 2020/21 NFF funding rates proportionately reduced for £2.9m +0.5% transfer and MFG @ +0.5%				OPTION 2U - Transfer £2.9m, 2020/21 minimum per pupil funding; funding factors at 20/21 NFF rates reduced pro rata; MFG @ +0.5%				OPTION 3U - No Transfer - 2020/21 minimum per pupil funding; funding factors at 20/21 NFF rates, MFG @ +6.48%			
Below Minimum per pupil	43				29				21				61				0				0			
Above Minimum per pupil	50				64				72				32				42				59			
At Minimum per pupil	0				0				0				0				51				34			
Total	93				93				93				93				93				93			
Secondary (Excl All Through)																								
Below Minimum per pupil	7				4				3				9				0				0			
Above Minimum per pupil	7				10				11				5				6				9			
At Minimum per pupil	0				0				0				0				8				5			
Total	14				14				14				14				14				14			

**Question 3: NFF – 12 votes**

**Question 4: Uplift – 2 votes**

Feedback will be given to members and passed to Cabinet for February.

*Any late applicants not included in the numbers considered by forum will not be included in the overall vote.*

**Action:**

Letters will be sent to schools outlining what has been proposed this evening.

## 7. Resource Base/Access Centre Update – Hilary Smith

- Emersons Green to spread more collective practices across South Glos.
- We will look at the capacity of Emersons across South Glos.
- Financial arrangements at Emersons need to be looked at with changing future numbers.
- Other proposals will continue.

- Executive Member decision will be made in January on whether to go out to a public consultation.

## 8. SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

<p align="center"><b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 @ 4.30</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Room 0012, Badminton Road Offices</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>26<sup>th</sup> March 2010 @ 4.30</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Venue to be confirmed</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HNWG Update – verbal update (SW)</b></li> <li>• <b>Update on DSG Funding Settlement – short report and update (CW)</b></li> <li>• <b>Update on independent places and Ready Reckoner – report – (DC)</b></li> <li>• <b>Growth % - report – (CW)</b></li> <li>• <b>Place Planning – report on using place planning to inform future decision – school numbers for next year and 5 years ahead – report – (TS)</b></li> <li>• <b>Early Years Single Funding Formula HNWG Update – (RW)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Decision on extending the use of the Ready Reckoner for Resource Bases/Access Centre – Schools Forum Approval pending pilot</b></li> <li>• <b>Request from Schools Contingency Fund</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Schools Budget Update</b></li> <li>• <b>HNWG – Strategic Plan update</b></li> <li>• <b>Integra Update – SIFD Request from Schools Contingency Fund</b></li> </ul>

<p align="center"><b>14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 @ 4.30</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Room 0012, Badminton Road Offices</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Possible RB/AC consultation update</i></b></li> </ul>

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Date of Next Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**