

Norfolk Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 11 January 2019
09:00 - 12:00 hours
South Green Park Mattishall

Present:

Mark Adamson
John Banbury
Holly Bowman
Keith Bates, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy
Chris Caddamy, City College
Carol Dallas, Taverham High School
Alan Evans
Mike Grimble, Avenue Junior School
David Hicks
Clare Jones
Adam Mason
Howard Nelson
Sarah Shirras, (Chair) St Williams Primary
Joanna Tuttle
Vicky Warnes
Martin White
Martin Brock
Sally Cutting
Marilyn Edgeley
Dawn Filtress
Chris Snudden

Representing

Academies
Early Years
Nursery School
Special School Academy
16 – 19 Representative
Secondary Academies
Academies
Primary Governors
(substitute for Christina Kenna)
Academies
Primary Schools
Diocesan Board of Education
Primary Schools
Maintained Secondary
JCC (primary phase)
Primary Governors
Accountant
Senior Accountant
Admin Officer
Finance Business Partner
Assistant Director (Education)

Apologies:

Bob Groome
Fyfe Johnston
Christina Kenna
Sara Tough

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

3. Election of Vice Chair of Schools Forum

Chris Caddamy was nominated for vice chair and this was unanimously agreed.

4 Matters Arising

It was noted that Christina Kenna and Mark Adamson are both resigning as academy representatives therefore an election will be held before the next school forum meeting in March.

Staff Costs

Carole Human HR Business Partner has produced a paper, and this is now available on the Schools Forum website.

Members asked for clarification on who meets the costs of redundancy when a school has a red RAG rating.

Members were concerned that there is a financial advantage to a school getting a red RAG rating.

Action Sarah Shirras/Sally Cutting/Chris Snudden to arrange meeting with Carole Human.

Support Staff Pay Increase – unions voted 87% in favour of accepting NCC proposal which will in some cases equate to a 9% rise in pay. Members said that the union letter circulated explaining the new pay structure was not very clear

Action: Chris Snudden will investigate to see if a communication is being sent out to schools.

Carol Dallas raised concerns of secondary schools regarding the disapplication request to the Department for Education (DfE) and the effect it will have on school budgets. Further exacerbated by support staff pay increases schools have concerns at how to meet the basic needs of education.

The authority will persist with the disapplication request in the hope that this will highlight the predicament schools are in.

Licences and further information on CLEAPSS

Information on CLEAPSS, which is a local authority collective licence for secondary schools, is now available on the Schools Forum website. Primary schools can buy into this at a cost of £60. Members questioned whether this licence was value for money as there are only two maintained secondary schools remaining in the county. Schools have received an MI information sheet on CLEAPSS.

Decision: It was agreed that the cost of this subscription will be covered by the local authority rather than being de-delegated.

Fair Funding – no decision from Secretary of State to date.

5. School Forum Staff Structure

The school forum structure is reviewed on an annual basis using data from the October census. With changes in the proportion of pupil numbers in the different school sectors the following changes are proposed.

Primary representatives – reduce from 4 to 3

Academy Representatives – increase from 6 to 7

Primary Representatives - Alison Clarke has resigned as a primary representative so no further action required.

Mark Adamson and Christina Kenna have resigned as academy representatives and there is an outstanding vacancy. This means that with the increase of academy representatives to seven an election will be held for 4 new academy representatives.

Members agreed that if an election is held for a primary representative in the future this should be open to both headteachers and governors.

Members said that they would like to see primary and secondary academies represented equally. Although we cannot specifically ask for secondary representative we can say that to represent all phases we especially invite nominations from the secondary phase.

Action: election to be held in time to secure 4 new representatives for the March meeting.

It was noted that there is an error on page 8 of the meeting papers and that the primary representatives need to be reduced by one not specifically by one headteacher.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2019/20

The following points were highlighted:

The authority has received 2019/20 allocations which show an increase of £10m to £610.792m before academy recoupment.

Schools block is £482.012m an increase of £8.969m this is made up from pupil numbers and a result of the New National Funding Formula.

Early Years block for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement totals £29.785m.

Schools forum are asked to vote to retain centrally 5% of the 3 and 4-year-old funding, £1.858m for the Local Authority to continue to provide central support and payments to all providers of Early Years Education, in schools and in private, voluntary and independent settings.

For 12

Abstention 1

Against 0

Schools Forum resolved to retain centrally 5% of the 3 and 4 year old funding.

The High Needs block has increased to £81.822m from £80.462m.

The overall difference in the DSG allocation from the prior is set out in a table on page 12 of the meeting papers.

If the Secretary of State declines the disapplication request or only partially agrees it, i.e. a funding transfer to the High Needs Block is rejected or accepted at a lower amount than the £4.58m requested, then the Schools Block and High Needs Block budgets will be adjusted accordingly, and the budget shares issued to schools would be adjusted via the funding cap on gaining schools.

A significant number of local authorities are putting in dis-application requests.

Further information expected on Primary PE and Sport Premium.

School Budgets will be published by the deadline of 28 February.

Action points:

- **The disapplication letter will be sent to Norfolk MP's.**
- **Educate Norfolk will also contact MP's.**
- **School Forum and Joint Headteacher's association will write a letter.**
- **Explanation of guidance on teacher's pay grant and teacher's pension increases**
- **Submit an enquiry to DfE on Sports Grant**

7. Pupil Variations – (paper tabled)

We no longer need to request approval from the government for increases but we do for negative adjustments.

The authority does have some increases from September 2019 onwards. Effects on budgets have not yet been calculated but will be brought to the March meeting.

The increases are part of the re-organisation programme.

Action – M. Brock to check negative entry on spreadsheet (Attleborough)

8. Maintained Nursery School Protection

In 2017/18 the DfE introduced the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF).

This moved the three nursery schools in Norfolk onto the same funding formula as all Early Years settings in Norfolk. In 2017/18 protection was given to cater for their slightly different budgets. There was a slight difference in what was allocated in 17/18 and 18/19 Schools Forum agreed extra protection, in 18/19 protection reduced from £320k to £270k, linked to 3 & 4 year-old pupil numbers and provider rates.

Therefore if we follow previous protection we would need to increase 2018/19 from Early Years contingency and continue protection for 2019/20.

Schools Forum are asked to comment:

Nursery schools only have supplementary funding until 2020.

The decision today is about whether nursery schools continue until 2020.

Decision: No decision was made on nursery school protection, and instead it has been taken away for the local authority to review its impact.

9. Any Other Business

Disapplication request to Secretary of State for Education

Schools Forum were shown a letter that will be sent to the Secretary of State for Education. This letter is an amended version to one originally submitted 29 November 2018 saying that the original request must be maintained.

10. Dates of Meetings

Friday 15 March – 9am-12pm – South Green Park Mattishall