

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Schools Forum
Date and time: 10 December 2015, 2pm to 4pm
Location: National Watersports Centre, NG12 2LU

Membership

'A' denotes absence

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| | Ms L Regan | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Ashfield) |
| | Ms S Bates | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Broxtowe) – (Vice Chair) |
| | Ms A Allcock | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Bassetlaw) |
| | Mr J Wilson | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Gedling) |
| A | Mrs H Atkins | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Mansfield) (sub in attendance) |
| | Ms H Richardson | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Newark) |
| | Ms L Toom | Maintained Primary Head Teacher (Rushcliffe) |
| A | Mr R Hawley | Maintained Secondary Head Teacher (sub in attendance) |
| | Mr D Vasey | Academy Head Teacher |
| A | Mr C Pickering | Academy Head Teacher (sub in attendance) |
| A | Mr C Weaver | Academy Head Teacher (sub in attendance) |
| | Mr J McGeachie | Academy Head Teacher |
| A | Ms D Trusler | Academy Head Teacher (sub in attendance) |
| | Ms K McIntyre | Special School Head Teacher |
| A | Mr A O'Mailey / Chris Humphries | Academy Special School Head Teacher |
| | Ms V Holland | Governor - maintained primary |
| A | Mr T Colton | Governor - maintained secondary |
| A | Mr M Quigley | Governor - academy |
| | Ms K O'Connell | PVI - Early Years Group Member |
| A | Ms C Walton | PVI - Early Years Group Member |
| | Mr C Cuomo | Diocesan representative - (Chair) |
| | Ms C Meese | Diocesan representative |
| | Mr J Jefferies | Trades union representative |
| A | Ms H Allister | Trades union representative |

In attendance:

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| Mr C Pettigrew | Corporate Director, CFCS |
| Mr J Slater | Service Director, Education Standards & Inclusion |
| Mrs S Summerscales | Acting Senior Finance Business Partner |
| Mrs T Gardner | Assistant Accountant, CFCS |

| | | ACTION |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo welcomed all members to the meeting</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologises were received from Helen Atkins (substitute in attendance Vic Wilkinson), Ryan Hawley (substitute in attendance Steven Chapman), Craig Weaver (substitute in attendance Michael Davies), Christopher Pickering (substitute in attendance Debbie Clinton), Donna Trusler (substitute in attendance Rob Gladwin), Chris Humphries, Mike Quigley, Tony Colton, and Chris Walton,</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Item 3a Minutes Forum 15th Sept 2015</p> <p>Mike Sharp & Val Holland arrived</p> <p>4I – Carlo Cuomo advised forum members that there had been an agreement between himself, Ruth Marriott, Helen Atkins and Louise Regan that this paper would be delayed and brought back to the forum in February 2016 in order for a consultative piece of work to be carried out.</p> <p>Item 3b Minutes Forum 22nd October 2015</p> <p>Craig Weaver substitute needs adding in – Michael Davies</p> <p>Debbie Clinton asked Dick Vasey what the outcome had been when the school forum representation was discussed at the secondary head teachers briefing – Dick Vasey advised that heads felt this needed a fuller discussion and would be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo added that he would also be discussing school representation later in the meeting under any other business (AOB)</p> <p>Action point for John Slater - John Slater advised the DfE had confirmed that the previous information given was correct and that schools no longer needed early year's units to be teacher led. Irene Kakoullis would be sending out information regards this to all schools in the next term.</p> <p>Adrienne Allcock requested clarification on the phasing out of the sustainability factor and what the amounts would be? Sue confirmed initially this was suggested as 50% over two years however at 50% this would mean the school only receives an allocation for one year, therefore the suggest was to reduce the factor by a 1/3 each year. This was agreed by all forum members</p> <p>Claire Meese arrived for meeting</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Item 4a – Colin Pettigrew presentation</p> <p>James McGeachie was happy with the information presented but still needed an explanation on how Nottinghamshire was going to close the gap between the worst and best funded schools as the current allocations were not fair.</p> <p>James McGeachie – understands as an F40 authority we are poorly funded and welcomes the fair funding agreement. West Bridgford Heads had looked at the</p> | |

deprivation factor initially as a way to narrow the gap between the worst and best funded Nottinghamshire schools and the models show this would not address the issue, as there are other elements within school budgets that impact and welcomes further understanding around the factors and school budgets.

Debbie Clinton – not right to compare against other authorities with historical error.

Ly Toom echoed what James McGeachie had said and advised the intention was not to target deprivation, but after a conversation with Ken Clark where he stated nothing would be happening nationally and local authorities could look locally. Deprivation in the early year's budget had be reduced due to double funding Rushcliffe heads wanted to see models where the same was applied to schools.

Sally Bates – right to look at all elements. Being a member of the F40 group we are one of the worst funded authorities. National funding is coming and we should put pressure on the government for a fairer formula.

Sally Bates asked was there a case for a letter to be sent to the DfE from the forum stressing the importance of fairer funding?

Louise Regan was reassured to see that most of the funding is going through the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) as that was the initial aim to direct as much funding through the formula via this factor.

Pupil premium is a specific grant which schools are very accountable for, targeted with particular outcomes and to include this across the board when looking at per pupil amounts is incorrect.

Carlo Cuomo added that he had received a couple of phone calls where head teachers had mirrored what Louise Regan was saying, that the grant was ring-fenced around a particular criteria.

Carlo Cuomo advised pupil premium had been included after a request from colleagues.

James McGeachie was aware that Nottinghamshire had received top up funding and requested if in the interim the top up funding could be used more creatively, to address this issue.

Sue Summerscales advised Nottinghamshire had contacted the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the additional funding was still part of the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) therefore the same regulations apply. LA's have the flexibility to move funding between funding blocks e.g. from the schools block to the early years or high needs block or to increase some of the centrally retained budgets provided that they have the agreement of schools forum or the Secretary of State where applicable. Two of our neighbouring authorities, Leicestershire and Derbyshire, both received significant amounts of additional funding, £20m and £16m respectively, and allocated some of it in this way e.g. both authorities moved some to their early years block

Nottinghamshire chose to put all the funding out to schools via the formula.

Dick Vasey could not understand why there was such a difference in the per pupil amounts and there was a need to understand why the differences were there.

Ly Toom echoed what Dick Vasey was saying and felt it would be beneficial to have a working group to better understand all elements of the formula.
Sue Summerscales advised that although we can determine the formula factors we cannot control the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and these allocations make a large difference to the per pupil amounts. When modelling a change to the percentage of deprivation there was no impact on 21% of schools which was due to them being in receipt of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG).

Carlo Cuomo - a working group was a good idea and if members were interested this could be arranged.

James McGeachie was aware that graphs by district showing how the per pupil amount is made-up have been given to some primary heads and felt this would be a good way of demonstrating the differences by school.
Carlo Cuomo said this would be useful for the working group to use when they get together.

Item 4c – School Funding 2016-17 Deprivation Factor Only Vote.

Carlo Cuomo started the voting process

| | | Schools Forum Vote | | |
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| | | Yes | No | Abstained |
| 1 | Do you agree that the same percentage of total funding should be used to allocate deprivation funding in 2016-17 as was used in 2015-16? | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| 2 | If you answered no to Question 1 do you think the percentage should be reduced or increased? | Due to outcome of Question 1 no vote required | | |
| 3 | If you would like the percentage to be reduced what would you like it reduced to? | Due to outcome of Question 1 no vote required | | |
| 4 | If you would like the percentage to be increased what would you like it increased to? | Due to outcome of Question 1 no vote required | | |
| 5 | Do you agree that the percentage of total deprivation funding allocated via FSM and IDACI in 2016-17 should be the same as used in 2015-16 i.e. allocated equally 50/50? | 15 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | If you answered no to Question 5 do you think that the percentage allocated via FSM and IDACI should be changed as follows? | Due to outcome of Question 1 no vote required | | |

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| | <p>Item 4d – Pupil Growth Fund</p> <p>Mike Sharp presented the paper and advised this was revenue funding and was not used for capital</p> <p>Beardall Fields advised the local authority that a child had not accepted there place therefore funding would not be required, and a claw back of allocation has been actioned.</p> <p>Mike Sharp took the members through the recommendations and pointed out note 4 “Considers making a retrospective payment of £26,832 to Mornington Primary” Mike Sharp explained Mornington had funded the extra teacher from their own school budget as they did not realise they met the criteria, and an allocation should be made to address this as they would have qualified.</p> <p>Sally Bates supported the recommendation for Mornington.</p> <p>Louise Regan urged primary reps to discuss the pupil growth fund with their areas as this was not an unlimited pot. Adrienne Allcock asked if there could be some sort of joined up working with admissions, as admissions could alert schools such as Mornington if they qualify. Mike Sharp advised he would look into this. Louise Regan felt that the criteria and allocation of the funds was applied in a very robust manor and that Mornington should not be penalised. Carlo Cuomo asked if any members were against note 4 – no objections were raised</p> <p>Recommendation/s That the Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report and the allocations made from the growth fund. 2. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2015-16, & considers the level of funding & criteria for future years, in light of any in-year allocations. 3. Considers confirming the indicative 3rd term funding for the 3 schools requiring 3 term support. 4. Considers making a retrospective payment of £26,832 to Mornington Primary. <p>All recommendation were approved.</p> | |
| | <p>Item 4e – Pay Cost Pressures Facing Schools 2015-16 & 2016-17</p> <p>This was an information only item presented by Sue Summerscales. Reference was made to the National Employers’ press release 9th December detailing the final pay offer for Council employees.</p> | |

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| | <p>Sally Bates – with extra cost pressures, and that Nottinghamshire was amongst the worst funded authorities, with increased austerity, Sally Bates proposed a letter be sent to Nicky Morgan at the Department of Education (DfE) voicing Nottinghamshire’s position.</p> <p>Helen Richardson left the meeting</p> <p>Louise Regan second Sally Bates proposal. Sally Bates offered to draft a letter which would be circulated for members which they could comment on. Karen O’Connell asked that Early Years funding be mentioned within the letter regards increasing the per pupil amount, even though she appreciates an increase has been announced.</p> <p>Sue Summerscales clarified that though there had been a national announcement to an increase to Early Years, Nottinghamshire had not yet received confirmation of their per pupil amount and this would not be known until next week (week commencing 14th December).</p> | SS |
| | <p>Item 4f – Consultation Process Going Forward.</p> <p>It was felt by the Rushcliffe Heads that there was not enough detail or time to understand models put out. Timescale had been very short, and to manage this we would need to start much earlier and to work together to understand.</p> <p>Dick Vasey asked the question about member accountability. Carlo Cuomo advised that an idea was to employ an external professional body to work with Nottinghamshire on this.</p> <p>Debbie Clinton was in support, it would bring a different prospective on the duties and role of the forum, and a number of other Local Authorities are carrying out the same exercise using an external body.</p> <p>It was pointed out that skills required to understand all elements of the budgets was a difficulty.</p> <p>Louise Regan – easier for primary representative to know who to contact within their area, more of an issue for academies, to get an handle on how to communicate to all academies and whether the representation was for academy secondary schools, academy primary schools or both.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo encouraged members to always ask questions on any element that they did not understand.</p> <p>Karen O’Connell – advised that they know who they are representing but was difficult to communicate this as funding has been removed.</p> <p>James McGeachie – Need to start working on budgets sooner rather than later.</p> <p>Debbie Clinton – was surprised there was no School Business Managers (SBMs) on the forum. Members were advised that Michael Davies representing Craig Weaver was a School Business Manager and after a discussion it was established that Academy members can have anyone representing them on the forum it was the maintained schools were it needs to be a Head or Governor</p> | |

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| <p>5</p> | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Joe Jefferies informed the school forum members of what was happening with the Education Service Grant (ESG) that the plan was for the budget to be cut by 75% by 2018 and probably after that be removed completely.</p> <p>Debbie Clinton had heard that the Education Service Grant (ESG) would be phased out over this Parliament.</p> <p>Joe Jefferies pointed out the reduction of this grant would affect all schools and academies.</p> <p>Colin Pettigrew informed the members that LGA (Local Government Association) had made a statement on this and would circulate the response to members.</p> <p>Carlo Cuomo asked that members interested in being part of the three working groups discussed to stay behind after the meeting.</p> <p>Working group 1 – Letter to Nicky Morgan Sally Bates to draft letter which will be circulated by members for comments</p> <p>Working group 2 - Accountability and Role of School Forum. Sally Bates and Carlo Cuomo to investigate and research an external body to aid with this.</p> <p>Working group 3 – Consultation Process and 2017-18 Budgets Louise Regan James McQueachie Ly Toom Dick Vasey Sue Summerscales Toni Gardner</p> | <p>CP</p> | | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Confidentiality</p> <p>It was confirmed that there was no confidentiality items.</p> | | | |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Date and time of next meeting(s)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="172 1563 1292 1641"> <tr> <td data-bbox="172 1563 561 1641"> <p>Thursday 11th February 2016</p> </td> <td data-bbox="561 1563 1292 1641"> <p>2-4pm National Watersports Centre (Ordinary)</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p>Thursday 11th February 2016</p> | <p>2-4pm National Watersports Centre (Ordinary)</p> | |
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