

Leicester City Council – Schools’ forum minutes

Minutes of the MS Teams meeting held at 1pm on Wednesday 25 November 2020.

Present

Schools members:

Mainstream Academies:

Special Academies:

Special School Governors:

Special School Heads:

Secondary School Governors:

Secondary School Head representatives:

Primary School Governors:

Primary School Head representatives:

Pupil Referral Units:

Name:

Mike Hobbs, Jane Ridgewell, Rose Angus

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Sarah Osborne

Chandrika Patel

Anna White

Liam Mahoney

Matt Potts, Karl Stewart

Shaun Whittingham

Non-school members:

Teaching Unions:

School support staff Unions:

16-19 Providers:

Early Years PVI Providers:

Name:

Jessica Edmonds (Chair)

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No attendee

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In attendance:

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin

Sue Welford

Martin Judson

Simon Walton

Martin Walsh

Role:

Assistant City Mayor (Education)

Principal Education Officer

Head of Finance

Principal Accountant LCC

Clerk to the Forum

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Janine Gibson and Glenys Mulvany

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meetings and matters arising

The minutes of the 30 September and the minutes of the 9 October were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings. It was agreed to agree recirculate the minutes of 13 November to be agreed at the next meeting.

Matters arising

i) Template letter for DfE

The Principal Education Officer explained that the letter template would be provided shortly.

(Action Sue Welford)

ii) SIMS Contract

The Principal Education Officer clarified that the LA does not have a contract with CAPITA for SIMS. Schools will need to liaise with their SIMS support provider as each individual school is the contract holder.

5. Response from Forum to SEND consultation

The Chair shared a draft response document based on responses that had been received and asked for views on the document. Members agreed that the final format would be made available on the consultation website. It was also agreed to forward the response to all school governors in the City.

6. Review of Forum membership (update)

The Chair explained that Nigel Bruen had made the decision to resign from the Schools Forum and thanked him for his service to the Forum during his membership. The Chair also welcomed a new member Rose Angus, the headteacher at Sir Jonathan North College.

The Chair explained that there was still a need for membership and had contacted Carolyn Robson at the Rushey Mead Trust to try and increase Academy representation.

7. De-delegation (update)

The Principal Accountant shared the document regarding de-delegation and noted that the return was lower than previous years and asked for views of the Forum.

The Primary Governor representative asked how the responses compared to previous years and asked if the primary school responses were from individual schools or collectively via LPP.

The Principal Accountant explained that the previous year's return was approximately 50% from primary and secondary schools. and this year was half that number. He also explained that the responses are from individual schools or a copy of the LPP response.

The NAHT representative agreed that the response was lower than last year, probably due to Covid and other issues. The responses suggest that there was a broadly positive response and a good indicator of the primary school sector feeling.

The Secondary School Heads representative explained that secondary maintained heads were unanimous that they did not want to pay more for facilities time and understood that the income was insufficient, and facilities time would have to be reduced accordingly. However, this is balanced against the fact that potentially the cost of facilities time could also be coming down.

The Head of Finance asked for clarity on the secondary school position and asked if they want to de-delegate and if they were aware that this accommodates the pay increase for the people that do the work.

The Secondary Schools Heads representative stated that the secondary school's position was de-delegation without the inflation as they are not prepared to pay more than they already pay now and were aware that it accommodates the pay increase.

The Head of Finance explained that this proposal would mean that secondary schools would be de-delegating at lower rate than was proposed in the consultation. He also explained that this was not an option provided by the consultation

The Chair explained that this proposal would also mean that there would be an imbalance between primary and secondary schools meaning that primary schools would be paying for the inflationary pay increase, but secondary schools would not.

The Head of Finance explained that the level of support would have to be cut to secondary schools as there would be less time available and would cost more. He noted that there was an option to defer this vote and consider this decision in January. He also offered to ask HR to investigate the implications of any imbalance in funding between primary and secondary schools.

Action (Martin Judson)

The Chair explained that there were big implications regarding facilities time if one sector voted in favour and one voted against along with the statutory implications.

The Head of Finance added that the TU rate had not increased for several years.

The Chair also explained that in recent years TU spending had been below the budget and any surplus had been put back into the school's budge

The Chair asked the maintained sector to vote yes/no or defer the decision until January.

- SEMH primary: Vote: Yes
- Primary School Improvement: Vote: Yes
- Assessment and Moderation: Vote: Yes
- Closing the Gap: Vote: Yes
- Whatever it Takes: Vote: Yes
- Staff costs for TU facilities: Vote: Defer until January

The NAHT representative explained that the primary maintained sector would be in favour of voting in favour of the staff costs for TU facilities time if there was parity with secondary schools.

The Head of Finance explained that HR would prepare a statement to clarify the implications if secondary don't vote for staff costs for TU facility time and how the secondary schools would be charged if they wanted to buy TU facility time from the LA as academies do or use another service of their choice.

8. Self-assessment.

The Chair explained that a self-assessment of the Schools Forum had taken place and shared the findings. Apologies were made for the delays in providing the paperwork and updating the web pages and it was agreed that papers would be provided in good time going forward and draft minutes would be circulated after agreement by the Chair. Some of the delay was attributed to the increased workload due to Covid-19. It was also agreed that another self-assessment would be completed in two years.

10. Any other Business

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.30pm.

The next schools' forum meeting date: 27 January 2021 Time: 1pm.