

**Minutes of the Schools Forum Meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
**(4.00 pm, Training Room 2, BEST hub, Colindale)**

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Type of Member</b>	<b>Member until end</b>
<b>Members</b>	Beata Felmer	London Academy	Substitute for Angela Trigg (Academy Principal)	Sept 2019
	Nigel Taylor	Childs Hill	Primary Community Governor	May 2018
	Robin Archibald	Broadfields Primary Academy	Academy School Representative	July 2019
	Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh	Special School Governor	Sep 2019
	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith Primary	Primary Community HT	Sep 2019
	Jo Djora	The Hyde Academy	Academy School Principal	Jul 2017
	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion PRU	Pupil Referral Unit	Sep 2019
	Jude Stone	Cromer Road	Primary Community HT	Mar 2018
	John Bowra	Christ's College Finchley	Secondary School Governor	Jul 2020
	Keith Nason	National Education Union	Stakeholders - Unions	Sep 19
	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Primary Community Governor	Apr 2017
	Liz Pearson	Early Years Learning Alliance	Substitute for substitute for Annette Long Nursery Community HT	
	Simon Horne	Friern Barnet	Secondary HT	Oct 2017
<b>LA Officers</b>	Ian Harrison	Education & Skills Director (Cambridge Education)	Officer	n/a
	Claire Gray	School Funding Manager		n/a
	Val White	Lead Commissioner		n/a
	Gaspare Nicolini	Senior Business Partner		n/a
	Tamara Kulatunga	CSG – School Funding		n/a

	<b>Did not attend</b>			
<b>Members</b>	Andrew McClusky	Hasmonean High School	Academy School Principal	Oct 2018
	Alayah Hirst	Independent Jewish Day School	School Governor	Jul 2020
	Ruth Taylor	Trent	VA governor	Jul 2020
	David Byrne	Barnet & Southgate Col	14-19 Provider Rep.	Sept 2019
	Kit Davies	Barnet and Southgate Col	Substitute 16-19 provider	Sept 2019
	Ian Stewart	Hasmonean high School (Boys`Site)	Substitute Acadamy Head of Finance	Oct 2018
	Lesley Burgess	Northway	Special School Headteacher	Sep 2019
	Marc Lewis	Wren Acadamy	Substitute Acadamy Finance Director	Nov 2019
	Angela Trigg	London Academy	Academy Representative	Sep 2019
	Siobhan O` Connell	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Substitute Private provider	Sept 2019
	Jane Harris	Garden Suburb schools	Substitute Community Governor	Jul 2020
	Anthony Vourou	St John`s N11	Primary VA/Found. Governor	Sep 2019
	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Early Years Private Provider Representative	Sep 2019
<b>Non Members</b>	Cllr Reuben Thompstone	Lead member for Children`s Services		

## 1 **SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP**

### 1a. **Membership review**

The Schools Forum now has 8 vacancies, two more vacancies than originally shown. CG stated that volunteers are needed to replace members who have left and requested governor and headteacher members canvass additional volunteers whenever possible.

### 1b. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Members were asked to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair-person for the forthcoming academic year.

Nigel Taylor (NT) nominated Gilbert Knight (GK); this was seconded by Jeanette

Adak (JA). As there were no other nominations, GK was elected.

Joanne Kelly (JK) nominated Simon Horne (SH) as Vice-Chair; seconded by Jude Stone .As there were no other nominations, SH was elected.

GK chaired the meeting from this point forward.

## **2 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

GK thanked Schools Forum for their nomination and welcomed new members : Jane Harris – Governor - Garden Suburb school, Annette Long – Moss Hall Nursery and Ruth Taylor – Governor - Trent CE (apologies for this meeting)

GK bid farewell to members leaving the Schools Forum: Jodi McCallum – Retiring from Barnet, Matthew Glenn – Leaving St Mary's and St John's, Jack Newton – resigned membership and Cllr Salinger – not on any committees as currently the mayor.

IH introduced two new CSG officers - Gaspare Nicolini (Senior Finance Business Partner) and Tamara Kulatunga (Deputy School Funding Manager).

## **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ruth Taylor and Cllr. Thompstone.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

GK asked if there were any declarations of interest regarding personal pecuniary gain.

Keith Nason (KN) declared his interest in De-delegation of Trades Union duties and funding. KN also mentioned that NUT and ATL unions have merged to become The NEU – The National Education Union.

## **5 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

## **6 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **7 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **7a 2017/18 Budget Monitoring and Revised budget – Gaspare Nicolini**

Gaspare Nicolini (GN) presented the Quarter 2 budget monitoring as shown in the agenda. The main pressures include Early Years reduction in income as a result of January census data (£0.425m), underlying pressure in rising cost of High Needs place expenditure / top ups (£0.342m). NNDR rates revaluations (£0.212m) and

adjustment to January funding – ISB (0.379m).

A request made to Schools Forum to approve the additional amount of £1.358m to be charged to brought forward reserves was approved in principle. It was noted that reserves have now dropped down to circa: £1m.

Nigel Taylor questioned if this is a historic low for reserves. GN stated that although the balance is historically low for Barnet, we are in a better position than most other local authorities.

Jo Djora (JD) asked if increased High Needs costs are common for this time of the year. IH stated it is but that the SEN team are undertaking a review to understand current pressure areas. Val White also mentioned that there is increasing pressure from post-16 students with SEND.

## **7b 2018/19 Apprenticeship Levy for Community Schools – Ian Harrison**

The transitional arrangement for the council to cover the cost of levy contributions for community schools in 2017/18 has come to an end. IH confirmed that this will not continue in 18/19. It was also confirmed that this includes Nursery schools. However, all schools should be able to draw on training credits available.

## **8 TOWARDS A NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA – Ian Harrison**

### **8a. National Funding Formula**

IH presented a number of slides (attached to these minutes) on school funding, beginning with slides on the provisional allocation of DSG funding and Barnet's options for the school funding formula in 2018-19.

2018/19 estimated DSG income and expenditure breakdown was presented based on indicative figures based on October 2016 census data. It was highlighted that figures will be subject to change arising from the October 2017 census data and the authority's final DSG allocation.

3 options were presented to Schools Forum. Option 1 - Modified Barnet formula, Option 2 – National Funding formula and option 3 – National formula with additional protection.

Option 1 would use a modified Barnet formula. This would exceed the school block income by £97k which would require a transfer from another block or an adjustment to the formula. MFG protection on reductions would continue at -1.5% per pupil. The schools forum discussed the feasibility of this option and agreed that it would create too much of a strain for losers when the national funding formula is implemented in full.

Option 2 would use NFF rates in the APT exactly as prescribed. This will result in an underspend of £0.820m against the £242,807m available in the schools block. This will leave the MFG at -1.5% (max loss per pupil). The maximum cash gain is likely to be +£162k and the maximum cash loss -£94k.

Option 3 will prepare schools for the eventual full implementation of the 'hard' National Funding Formula in 2020/21 by providing a smoother transition for losers rather than the big bang approach. This can be achieved by offering improved MFG protection for losers (-0.5% per pupil) but a cap on gains (0.5% per pupil). The maximum cash gain is likely to be +£44k and the maximum cash loss -£31k.

The Schools Forum was invited to comment on all 3 options. The Schools Forum decided to dismiss option 1 (current modified Barnet formula) and it was confirmed that modelling for all schools on Options 2 (NFF) & 3 (NFF with additional protection) will be included in the consultation. The council recommended option 3.

The council will consult all schools on the principles and present the results to the Schools Forum in December. The consultation will be held between mid - October and mid - November.

The council is consulting on the principles of protection/ capping, but the actual level of MFG protection and the cap on gains will be agreed when the total 2018/19 DSG funding is known in January as a result of the October 2017 census data.

## **8b 2018/19 Education Services Grant**

IH mentioned that the situation in relation to the removal of the Education Services Grant (the 2016/17 ESG general rate element for Barnet - £2.8m) has not changed. The 2017/18 reduction was absorbed by the council but this may not continue.

The council would require the agreement of the maintained schools members of the Schools Forum to de-delegate funding to pay for services that were previously funded from the general rate element of the ESG. This would affect *maintained schools only*. If the council were to ask for dedelegation to make up £0.8m or the £2.8m lost income, the average cost per primary maintained school would be £8,500 (varying with pupil numbers) and £17,000 on average for secondary maintained schools.

If the authority and Schools Forum are unable to agree on the level of DSG to be retained by the LA to cover retained duties, the LA may refer it to the Secretary of State.

Keith Nason (KN) questioned if this de-delegation includes foundation schools, the answer was yes.

NT wanted to know if there is a breakdown of this figure rather than based on a single amount per pupil. Simon Horne mentioned that it is not possible to compare costs with other LAs if there is no breakdown available. GN stated that other LAs will also be setting a single rate per pupil.

Schools Forum noted the current position and noted that a special meeting of the Schools Forum would be held if the council does ask for dedelegation to cover lost ESG income. The Forum will then wish to consider whether schools should be consulted before the Forum decides its response to the council.

## **9 Any other business**

BF questioned when each school would be made aware of their draft 18/19 allocation. It was confirmed that indicative figures (based on October 2016 census data) would be circulated as part of the consultation document and revised figures would be circulated after the updated DSG allocations and revised national funding formula allocations, based on 2017 census data, are available in January

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### **Draft agenda for next meeting – 7 December 2017**

Members approved the draft agenda for the next meeting.

GK closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 5.00pm.