

Minutes of the Schools Forum

North London Business Park 15 January 2019

Attended	Name	Representing	Type of Member
Members:	Alexander Banks	Wessex Gardens	Primary Community Headteacher
	Curtis Sweetingham	St. Johns N20	Primary VA Headteacher
	Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh	Special School Governor
	Ian Kingham	Oak Lodge	Special Academy Representative
	John Bowra	Christ's College Finchley	Secondary Academy Governor
	Jude Stone	Cromer Road	Primary Community Headteacher
	Keith Nason	National Education	Stakeholder- Trade Union
	Lucy Harrison	The Archer Academy	Secondary Free Headteacher
	Luke Bridges	All Saints N20	Primary VA Headteacher
	Marc Lewis	Wren Academy	Substitute for Gavin Smith
	Nigel Taylor	Childs Hill	Primary Community Governor
	Sarah Sands	Garden Suburb Infants	Primary Community Headteacher
	Sarah Vipond	Middx University Nursery	PVI Nursery providers
	Simon Horne	Friern Barnet	Community Secondary Headteacher
	Ziz Chater	Dollis Infants	Primary Community Headteacher
Councillors:	Cllr David Longstaff	Chair of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee	
LA Officers:	Ian Harrison	Education and Skills Director	
	Gaspare Nicolini	Senior Finance Business Partner	
	Claire Gray	School Funding Manager	
	Neil Hooper	CIPFA trainee - Clerk	
Did not attend:	Anthony Vourou	St. Johns N11	Primary VA Governor
	Robin Archibald	Broadfields Academy	Primary Academy Headteacher
	Lucy Rodgers	Colindale	Primary Community Headteacher
	Jack Newton	Underhill	Primary Community Headteacher
	Jo Djora	The Hyde	Primary Academy Headteacher
	Jo Kelly		PRU
	Annette Long	Moss Hall Nursery School	Maintained Nursery Headteacher
	Dr Matthew Stevens	Saracens High School	Secondary Free school Headteacher

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

GK welcomed members to the first meeting of 2019. There were no new members joining Schools Forum on this occasion.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jo Djora, Matthew Stevens, Robin Archibald and Lucy Rodgers. Marc Lewis attended as substitute for Gavin Smith.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Item 1 in the minutes of the last meeting incorrectly recorded Lucy Rodgers as Headteacher of All Saints N20, and Sarah Sands as Headteacher of Colindale. The correction now shows Lucy Rodgers as Headteacher of Colindale, and Sarah Sands as Headteacher of Garden Suburb Infant school.

John Bowra requested correction to Item 4, paragraph 2 where incorrect initials were shown. The corrected item now reads:

‘JB stated he was shown as a Secondary VA Governor on Page 5, but he is a Secondary Academy Governor’.

5. MATTERS ARISING

IH reported that he had checked previous minutes, as requested by JD, and could confirm that the Schools Forum had not voted on how the school improvement grant should be used.

6. 2018/19 BUDGET MONITORING

GN opened by presenting the outturn position as agreed for period 9. The overall DSG pressure totalled £0.297m; this is largely attributable to overspend pressures within the High Needs (HN) block. GN commented that the Early Years (EY) block budget is expected to underspend which will help improve the position at year end. However, in the event of an overall overspend, this would be the first call on the 2019/20 budget.

GN explained the changes to 2018/19 income, and informed members that the High Needs block will receive an additional £0.964m in each of the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 as a result of the Secretary of State’s announcement in December 2018.

It was also confirmed that in addition to this increase in DfE funding, Barnet has received a further £0.108m as a result of higher imported HN pupils than originally advised by the DfE.

In conclusion, GN sought to reassure Schools Forum by suggesting he believes the final, overall DSG position will come in on budget. It was acknowledged that the budget will continue to require close review and monitoring, and further updates will be provided to members at the next meeting.

7. 2019/20 BUDGET PROPOSALS

7a. The Barnet Schools Budget 2019/20

IH clarified that this section required decisions by Schools Forum on recommendations i – iv. The decisions are needed to enable submission of the Authority Proforma Tool by the deadline of 21 January, confirming Barnet's formula funding proposals for 2019/20.

IH explained that, following the announcement that an additional £0.964m HN allocation funding will be received in 2019/20, Barnet council has chosen to withdraw the request submitted to the Secretary of State to transfer 0.5% of the Schools block allocation to the High Needs block.

IH went on to highlight that now the transfer to the HN block is no longer required, the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) can be set at 0%, ensuring no school in Barnet will receive less money per pupil in 2019/20 than it did in 2018/19. To ensure this level of MFG protection is affordable, the cap on gains has been set at 0.5% per pupil for those school gaining from the National Funding Formula.

Schools Forum needs to agree the funding rates shown in Table 2, the 0% MFG and 0.5% cap as proposed, and also must agree the local criteria applied for growth and split site funding.

IH then explained the figures shown in Appendices I and II. Appendix I shows the Minimum Funding Guarantee per pupil funding in 2018/19, and shows the top-up or cap value applied to schools in 2019/20 in line with the 0% protection/+0.5% cap proposed. Appendix II then shows the indicative school level formula funding, the de-delegation (£0.582m) and the £1m de-delegation for Education Functions (former ESG services) which the Secretary of State has now approved.

As a result of SoS approval for services formerly funded from the ESG to be charged to the budgets of maintained primary and secondary schools, the modelling shown in Appendices III & IV are no longer relevant.

ML queried the lump sum value for 2019/20 in the National Funding Formula. CG confirmed it remains the same as 2018/19 - £120,783.

KN asked about Dollis Infant and Junior schools being shown as a primary school in the models and asked if the merger had been confirmed. IH confirmed that the figure was dependent on the final decision following consultation and would be changed to 2 separate schools if the merger does not go ahead.

SV asked if there were any proposed changes to the hourly funding rate for 2 year olds. CG confirmed that the rate will remain the same as in 2018/19 - £6 per hour.

SH drew attention to the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee protection applied because of the 0% MFG proposal, with a total cost of £8.666m. IH replied that the National Funding Formula rates adversely affect the majority of Barnet schools, and the NFF affects London areas more significantly than elsewhere. Barnet has decided to protect schools by offering a 0% MFG, but the standard MFG under the National Funding Formula would allow schools to lose a maximum of -1.5% per pupil against 2018/19 levels.

IK sought clarification on when the High Needs block position will be finalised and what the final position may look like. CG responded by saying that the anticipated position will not be vastly different to the current (gross) figure of £49.977m. There are likely to be 2 main changes to the block allocation, the first being a reduction in commissioned ARP places at London Academy; the second is the number of HN pupils imported to Barnet. As a result, it is anticipated that the High Needs block will increase marginally.

IK queried if there would be any increase in top-up band values this year. CG replied that, in line with the Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0% for mainstream schools and as a result of reported pressures in the High Needs Block, it is not possible to increase top-up rates.

LH requested clarification on the multiplier applied to the split site travel factor for secondary schools. CG confirmed that if there is more than one mile between sites, the multiplier is 1.4; for those schools with split sites under a mile apart, the multiplier is 0.2.

GK then asked members to vote on proposals i – iv. Proposal v is withdrawn in light of the Secretary of State approval for the Education Function de-delegation.

Decisions:

Proposal i - To note and agree the 2019/20 draft budget proposals as shown.
Voting: Agreed unanimously.

Proposal ii – To agree the 2019/20 formula factor rates for the APT submission.
Voting: Unanimously in favour.

Proposal iii – To agree the 2019/20 Growth funding criteria as proposed.
Voting: Agreed unanimously.

Proposal iv – To agree the split site criteria as proposed.
Voting: Agreed unanimously.

8. AOB

The agenda for the next meeting on 28th March will include the following:

2018/19 DSG budget – provisional outturn

2019/20 draft DSG budget – detail by Section 251 level

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4pm. Thursday, 28th March 2019 – NEW (February meeting cancelled)

4pm. Tuesday, 7th May 2019

4pm. Thursday, 11th July 2019

Venues for all meetings to be confirmed.