

Minutes of the Schools Forum Meeting
11th February 2016
(4.00 pm, Training Room 3, BEST hub, Colindale)

Attended	Type of Member	Name	Representing	Member until end
Members	Primary Community Gov	Elizabeth Pearson	Holly Park/Livingstone	Sep 2016
	Special School Governor	Gilbert Knight	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith Primary	Sep 2016
	Pupil Referral Unit	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion PRU	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Jude Stone	Tudor / Cromer Road	Mar 2018
	Unions	Keith Nason	National Union of Teachers	Sep 2016
	Primary Community Gov	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Apr 2017
	Academy School Principal	Marc Lewis (substitute for Michael Whitworth)	Wren Academy	Nov 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	Matthew Glenn	St Mary's & St John's	Apr 2018
	Nursery School Headteacher	Perina Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	May 2017
	Secondary HT	Simon Horne	Friern Barnet	Oct 2017
	Academy Representative	Tom Brighton (substitute for Angela Trigg)	London Academy	Sep 2016
LA Officers	LBB Officer	Chris Munday	Commissioning Director for Children and Young People	
	LBB Officer	Ian Harrison	Education & Skills Director	
	LBB Officer	Val White	Lead Commissioner	
	LBB Officer	Farhana Begum	CSG – Children & Adults Finance	
	LBB Officer	Carol Beckman	CSG – School Funding	
	LBB Officer (Clerk)	Claire Gray	CSG – School Funding	
	LBB Officer	David Monger	LBB - Children's Service Consultant	

	Other	Finbar McGaughey	Cambridge Education	
Did not attend				
Members	Academy School Principal	Andrew McClusky	Hasmonean High School	Oct 2018
	Primary Foundation/ VA Gov	Anthony Vourou	St Johns CE N11	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT	Clare Rees	Sunnyfields Primary	Feb 2017
	Primary Community Gov	Cllr Brian Salinger (substitute for Elizabeth Pearson)	Holly Park/Livingstone	Sep 2016
	14-19 Provider Representative	David Byrne	Barnet & Southgate Col	
	Academy School Principal	Jack Newton	Grasvenor Infants	Nov 2015
	Academy School Principal	Jane Beaumont	Copthall	Jan 2016
	Academy School Principal	Jo Djora	The Hyde Academy	Jul 2017
	Special School Headteacher	Lesley Burgess	Northway	Sep 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	Maureen Kelly	St Theresa's Catholic	Jul 2017
	Academy School Principal	Rachel Fink (substitute for Andrew McClusky)	Hasmonean High School	Oct 2018
	Primary Community HT (4)	Sally Lajalati	Colindale Primary	Sep 2014
	Private Early Years Provider	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Sep 2016
	Secondary HT	Seamus McKenna	Finchley Catholic	Nov 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA Gov	VACANT		
	Primary Foundation/VA HT	VACANT		
	Secondary Community/VA Governor	VACANT		
Non Members	EFA Observer			
	LBB Officer	Catherine Peters	CSG – Head of Finance	
	Elected Member	Cllr R Thompstone	Lead member for Children's Services	
	LBB Officer	Nick Adams	CSG – Financial Services	

	Primary Community Gov	Nigel Taylor	Wessex Gardens	May 2018
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1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Michael Whitworth, Anthony Vourou, Nigel Taylor and Catherine Peters. Post-meeting apologies were received from Sarah Vipond.

CB apologised for the late release of the Schools Forum papers, but this was because the content on budget monitoring could not be released until after the P&R committee papers had been published.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members at this meeting, but Gilbert Knight welcomed Finbar McGaughey representing Cambridge Education, the Education Service Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) partners.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

5. MATTERS ARISING

VW advised that the application by Menorah High School for Girls has been approved by CELS, and the school would be joining the maintained sector on 1st April 2016.

CB is liaising with the EFA to ensure the DSG income is received for the additional pupils.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6a 2015/16 Budget monitoring

FB presented the quarter 3 budget monitoring report, which shows no overall change to the schools budget. There has been a £1.4m movement as a result of revised High Needs top-up funding, revised 2, 3 & 4 year olds uptake figures and reduced Early Years Vulnerable Children (EYVC) expenditure. Appendix 1 of the papers shows the current projection of £1.7m underspend.

PH queried the fact that EYVC is now underspending when schools are bearing the cost and have been advised there should be no new referrals. She asked if the application process for EYVC funding would now be reopened. FB advised that she should contact the Family Services (Social Care) team for up-to-date guidance.

6b National Funding Formula consultation

IH advised that there has been no detail from the DfE regarding the National Funding Formula consultation. It is not known whether any proposals will be a formula at school level or Local Authority level, but it is highly likely to be a move away from historic spend/funding levels and there is an expectation that it will mean lower funding for London authorities (especially Inner London) but higher funding for northern authorities.

A number of organisations have undertaken some modelling, but as detail is not known these are not reliable. However, the London Councils group modelling suggests a change to LB Barnet of approximately -2%. London Councils have proposed to the DfE that other LA funding levels should be brought up rather than London being reduced. The consultation is expected in the next couple of months, although the government is aware that the timing is affected by the GLA election purdah period. Any protection during the transition period is not known, nor is the timescale for this transitional protection. The proposals are expected to cover the High Needs and Schools Block first, with Early Years possibly following at a later stage. The proposals are also likely to include cuts to the Education Support Grant (ESG) for both maintained and academies/free schools.

ML commented that the F40 (40 lowest funded authorities) website is accessible, and shows new proposals that indicate LB Barnet would lose ~£167 per pupil. CM advised that current indications are that the government are not planning to accept the F40 proposals. Indications are that the higher area costs for London have been accepted and not questioned. VW suggested that members of the Schools Forum should respond robustly to the consultation once released, either as individuals or as a group. The Schools Funding Team will offer assistance on this and will provide a briefing to support the Schools Forum response. SH asked if the DfE per pupil figure is likely to recognise deprivation. CM stated that this is not known.

6c Alternative Delivery Model

VW recapped the reasoning for the council decision to establish an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) in order to maintain support services to schools. At the end of a complex process (where Headteachers and Governors have worked closely with the LA), Barnet is about to sign a contract with Cambridge Education that will manage these services. VW then introduced Finbar McGaughey, Barnet's lead contact at Cambridge Education.

The organisation works solely in the Education sector, both in the UK and overseas and will deliver catering through its sub-contractor, ISS. The changeover will take effect from 1st April 2016, and plans are in place to ensure a smooth transition so as not to distract staff from service delivery. There is likely to be a review of services in the early months to identify where efficiencies may be needed, or in order to expand the traded services offer. All stakeholders will be included in these discussions. Cambridge Education also has access to non-Barnet funding and the Barnet contract confirms that any surplus achieved above an agreed level will be reinvested for the benefit of Barnet and Barnet Schools.

SH asked if the discussions with ISS regarding catering requirements will take place before or after the April changeover. FMcG said this would happen shortly after the contract commencement.

IH requested that, as this potentially affects posts within the authority that would transfer to Cambridge Education, schools should indicate as soon as possible their traded service buyback requirements.

7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

7a 2016/17 Draft Budget

CB provided a copy of the draft budget that will be considered by the P&R committee on 16th February 2016, and which forms the majority of the information submitted to the DfE in Section 251 (s251) at the end of March. Members should note that underspends from previous years have been crucial in covering the cost of growth in Barnet, both in pupil numbers and new schools; this is costing approximately £3.5m - £4m per annum. £1.3m will be used to support the growth fund in 2016/17, but further underspends will be needed to support growth going forward. Other LAs are either setting deficit budgets or are cutting funding to schools to cover this pressure.

All proposals in the 2016/17 draft budget are based on the status quo, as any future national funding formula requirements are not known at this stage and should not affect 2016/17.

In a change to the budget presented to Schools Forum in October, the 2016/17 draft budget proposals include an increase in the AWPU of £10 for all Reception – Year 11 pupils. An additional £500k has also been factored into the HN budgets in order to lift the top-up rates by 2% to schools. Central services costs have been retained at flat cash levels, although this is a smaller percentage of expenditure as pupil numbers and the DSG grows. The table shows the gross budget figures that are needed for s251, and the net budgets after Academy/ Free School recoupment. (Budget monitoring is reported against net budget figures).

Members were asked to vote on the 2016/17 draft budget proposals.

Vote: Carried, unanimous.

7b 2016/17 APT submission

The final 2016/17 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) was submitted to the government on 21st January 2016. This detailed Barnet's final 2016/17 funding formula for both maintained schools and academies.

The APT released in December giving the October school census data showed a significant drop in IDACI scores affecting all London authorities. In previous years, Barnet funded the top 3 IDACI bands (4, 5 and 6) in the funding formula. However, Barnet schools no longer have any pupils at IDACI level 6. This change would have significantly reduced the overall amount allocated through deprivation funding, and also put the majority of schools on the minimum funding guarantee (MFG).

In order to rectify this demographic change and to lift schools off the MFG, officers agreed that Barnet should continue to fund the top 3 IDACI bands - now bands 3, 4 and 5 - and that the same overall amount should be distributed through deprivation factors. Additionally, modelling indicated that it was advantageous to secondary schools to distribute a greater amount through IDACI and less through FSM6, although the overall ratio between primary and secondary funding remains consistent at 1:1.29

As a result of these rate adjustments, the cap on gains that had been proposed to the Schools Forum in October at 15% can now be raised to 20% without increasing the overall cost of the Individual Schools Budget (ISB). The final APT submission can be viewed on page 21 of the Schools Forum papers.

Members were asked to vote on the 2016/17 APT submission.

Vote: Carried, unanimous.

7c 2016/17 High Needs Places

DM summarised the key points in the High Needs paper, which showed that current trends indicate a need for increased places in Barnet specialist provision and reduced reliance on out-of-borough placements, although there has been a small increase in placement in other LA Special schools. Capacity has recently been expanded at Barnet's primary Special Schools, and a building programme is due to start shortly to increase places at Oak Lodge. It is expected that Kisharon will convert to a Special free school, which will further increase local provision. Although specialist provision demand is increasing, there has been a small overall decrease in statemented pupils in mainstream settings – higher numbers in primary, lower in secondaries.

There has also been a reduction in Post-16 placement costs as a result of demographic changes and the development of provision at Barnet & Southgate College.

IH commented that the work involved in this analysis, the tracking of HN children and more accurate budget projections had been significant and he thanked Penny Richardson, David Monger and Jane Marriott for their efforts.

GK asked if the authority received a greater number of complaints from dissatisfied parents. DM stated that parents are happier that greater provision is available locally and there are fewer tribunals or complaints.

Schools Forum is asked to note

1. the current projections for High Needs Funding
2. the proposed number of places in Barnet specialist provision for 2016/17

Duly noted.

8. DRAFT AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING - 12TH MAY 2016

1. Welcome to new members
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Items for information
 - 2015/16 Budget Monitoring – Final Outturn
 - 2016/17 Budget
7. Items for decision/ discussion
 - National Funding Formula consultation
8. Draft agenda for next meeting – 7th July 2016
9. Any other business

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KN wanted to draw members' attention to the teacher retention and recruitment working party, as there is currently insufficient secondary representation on this group. He asked Headteachers to canvas members for this sector where possible.

Dates of future meetings:

12 May 2016, 4pm.	Training Room 3, BEST hub, Colindale
7 July 2016, 4pm.	Training Room 3, BEST hub, Colindale

Meeting closed at 5.30pm