

## Meeting of the Schools Forum

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**(4.00 pm, Training Room 2, Building 2 at NLBP)**

### **Attended**

Members:

- Sarah Vipond (Middlesex Uni, PVI Full Day Care)
- Jayne Franklin (Head, Childs Hill)
- John Marincowitz (Head, QE Boys)
- Anthea Aberly (Head, Rosh Pinah)
- Alan Homes (NASUWT)
- Jodi Gurney (Head, Hampden Way)
- Anthony Vourou (Governor, St John's N11)
- Johnathan Hewlings (Governor, East Barnet)
- Derrick Brown (Governor, Ashmole)
- Elizabeth Pearson (Governor, Livingstone)
- Ken Huggins (Governor, The Compton)
- Gilbert Knight (Governor, Oakleigh)
- Alan Homes (NASUWT)
- Angela Murphy (Head, Bishop Douglass)
- Stephen Parkin (Governor, St Mary's CE)
- Stuart Gray (Principal Inspector, Children's Service)

LA Officers:

- Martin Baker (Acting Director of Children's Service)
- Linda Parker (Head of Finance, Children's Service)
- Nick Adams (Schools Finance Services Manager)
- Carol Beckman (School Funding Manager)

Consultant:

- Geoff Boyd

Observer Status:

- Lucy Salaman (LSC)

Clerk:

- Sarosh Ali (School Resources & Support Officer)

### **Not Present**

Members:

- Tim Bowden (Head, Holy Trinity)
- Kevin Hoare (Head, Finchley Catholic)
- Hazel Godfrey (Governor, Broadfields)
- Sue Brown (Head, Wessex Gardens)
- Mary Karaolis (Head, The Ravenscroft)
- Elizabeth Pearson (Governor, Livingstone)
- Helen Schmitz (Head, Cromer Road)
- Lynda Walker (Head, Oaklodge)
- Derrick Brown (Governor, Ashmole)
- Mick Quigley (Principal Inspector, Children's Service)

Observers:

- Cllr Fiona Bulmer
- Hassan Shami (LSC Partnership Manager)

Vacancies:

- Community Secondary Head
- Academy Observer
- Community Primary Head

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from Liz Pearson, Mary Karaolis, Sue Brown, Mick

Quigley, Lynda Walker, Helen Schmitz, Hazel Godfrey, Hassan Shami and Derrick Brown.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting (5<sup>th</sup> February 2008)**

The minutes were agreed.

Proposer – KH, Seconder – JH

**3. Matters Arising**

- 3.1 AM said she was not notified of last meeting. SP said he sent his apologies last meeting but it was not noted.
- 3.2 School Lunch Grant (minute 4.2): Following discussion at the last meeting, MB said the grant is proposed to be distributed as follows. He said the £130k for equipment would be distributed in September to all schools who have not had their kitchen recently refurbished. Funding originally earmarked for nutritional analysis will now be distributed to schools. LA will write to schools before the end of term with guidelines and will also write to the contractors. AM asked how the LA would know which schools have had their kitchens refurbished. MB said he will contact Teresa Goodall. **Action MB**
- 3.3 LSU (minute 4.3): JM explained there had been a working group to discuss the issue around LSU funding. Decision was to fund Bishop Douglass and Friern Barnet in full this year, half next year and no funding in 2010/11. The group proposed the remaining 50% in 2009/10 should be distributed to all schools and in 2010/11 all funding should be distributed to all schools. CB said a short paper is needed for next meeting so it can be agreed formally as it is about formula funding. JM asked SA to approach Kate Roskell to retrieve the minutes of the Heads meeting. **Action SA**
- 3.4 Membership of the Schools Forum (minute 4.4): MB told the Schools Forum the Heads representation on groups across the LA will be looked at in September and reported back to the Schools Forum.
- 3.5 AOB: JM said that he had sent a reply to John Burgess with the decision of the Schools Forum. There has been no reply.

## **4. Items for Agreement**

### **4.1 Schools Budget**

- 4.1.1 LP introduced a report which showed the DSG outturn for 2007/08. There was an under spend of £246k which would have to be rolled forward to 2008/09.
- 4.1.2 The final DSG for 2008/09 is lower than expected by £424k. The LA propose to use the under spend from 2007/08 to offset the short fall leaving a deficit of £180k in 2008/09.
- 4.1.3 AM explained she was happy to roll last year's under spend forward but not happy with this year's deficit to be rolled over next year. She said savings from the centrally retained budget should be found. JM stated that we want to avoid a year on year breach of the CEL.
- 4.1.4 Local Authority officers will endeavour to ensure there is no deficit on expenditure during the financial year 2008-2009 and will report to the School's Forum on the extent to which this has been achieved and the implications for the DSG for 2009-10.

## **4.2 Early Years Working Group**

- 4.2.1 SV gave a brief summary of the EYWG meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008. She told the Schools Forum that they looked at the twenty pathfinders. She explained that they would analyse how the maintained and private sectors operate and support how best to provide flexibility to parents.
- 4.2.2 SV said the EYWG needs to look at the true cost of providing the free entitlement. A survey has been distributed to all settings asking about costs. CB said there has been a positive response and good dialogue at the EYWG meetings.
- 4.2.3 AH asked if a detailed paper was available from the EYWG meeting. CB told the Schools Forum that they are able to see the minutes and papers of the EYWG on the School Funding website. CB mentioned that they are hoping the Government will be releasing further advice and guidance by the end of July.

## **4.3 School Balances at 31 March 2008**

- 4.3.1 NA introduced the report showing School Balances at 31 March 2008. He said there was an increase in revenue and capital balances. A number of schools have gone from deficit to surplus.
- 4.3.2 NA said schools were too conservative in their end of year forecasts. Even though the schools were 1-3% within their forecast, overall this totalled £2m for all schools. NA emphasised to the Schools Forum that schools need to spend money on a timely basis rather than letting it accumulate.
- 4.3.3 AM suggested that schools which have recovered from deficit should be noted and congratulated. AM showed her concern about the excessive balances and asked what role the Schools Forum would play. NA explained there is a clawback procedure but an appeals process could involve members of the Forum.
- 4.3.4 MB told the Schools Forum that schools have been written to asking about their balance. The closing date for response is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and responses will be analysed for the next meeting.
- 4.3.5 CB mentioned that she attended a meeting with the DCSF where it was said that the clawback is still high on the government agenda.

## **5 Items for Information**

### **6. Any Other Business**

- 6.1 MB said by 23<sup>rd</sup> September the LA will know the implications of transferring LSC money to LA from 2010. There are a number of issues for the Schools Forum. LA are currently working with the LSC.
- 6.2 SP asked if JM had written letter to Gillian Palmer to thank her for her work. JM to give copy to SA.
- 6.3 JF would like to step down as Vice Chair. CB said there would be elections in September.

**Action  
JM**

### **7. Dates of future meetings**

Tue 23rd Sep 2008	4.30 pm
Tue 9th Dec 2008	4.30 pm
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2008	4:30 pm