

**London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Schools Forum - Minutes**



**Wednesday 17 January 2018
Extra-Ordinary meeting Fulham College Boys'
School at 1.30pm**

Representing	Name	Organisation	Attendance
Primary Schools	5 Members		
Primary Head	Claire Fletcher (CF)	St Paul's CE Primary School	Absent
Primary Head	Wayne Leeming (WL)	Melcombe Primary School	Present
Primary Head	Kathleen Williams (KW)	Holy Cross RC Primary School	Absent
Primary Governor	Daisy Armstrong (DA)	Avonmore Primary School	Apologies
Primary Governor	Sharon Robinson (SR)	John Betts Primary School	Absent
Secondary schools	1 Member		
Secondary Head	Vacancy		
Academies	5 members		
Secondary Non Recoupment Academy Principal	Gary Kynaston (GK)	Hammersmith Academy	Present
Secondary Recoupment Academy Head	Vacancy		
Secondary Recoupment Academy	Vacancy		
Secondary Recoupment Academy (Observer)	Peter Haylock (PH) (Chair)	Fulham College Trust	Present
Primary Academy	Vacancy		
Maintained Nursery Schools	1 member		
Nursery Head	Michele Barrett (MB)	Vanessa/Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre School	Present
Special Schools	1 member		
Special Schools Head	Francesca Smith Welsh (FSW)	Jack Tizard School	Absent
Alternative Provision	1 member		
Alternative Provision Rep	Nathan Crawley-Lyons (NCL)	TBAP	Absent
Early Years (PVI)	1 member		
	Jane Gleasure (JG)	Little People	Absent
14-19 Representative	1 member		
	Vacant		
School Business Manager	2 observers		
Primary (Maintained)	Giles Finnemore (GF)	Brackenbury Primary School	Apologies
Secondary (Academy)	Tim Scott (TS)	Fulham College Trust	Present
Trade Union	1 observer		
	Katie Brown (KB)	NUT	Absent
Officers in Attendance			
Finance Planning Lead	Tony Burton	Tri Borough Children's Services	Present
Tri Borough Director of Finance & Resources	Dave McNamara (DM)	Tri Borough Children's Services	Present
Director of Children's Services	Steve Miley	LBHF	Present
Education & School Lead	Lize Ferreira (LF)	Tri Borough Children's Services	Present
Observers			
Procurator	Robert Jones (RJ)	The London Oratory School	Present

Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting as a correct record of the proceedings and any amendments arising will be recorded in the minutes of that subsequent meeting.

Clerk	Julie Farmer (JF)	Tri Borough Children's Services	Present
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INTRODUCTION

DM welcomed everyone to the meeting and he thanked PH for hosting the meeting at Fulham College Boys' School at such short notice.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Daisy Donovan (Primary Governor rep) and Giles Finnemore (Brackenbury Primary School).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 January 2018 would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Schools' Forum.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

5. NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA, DSG SCHOOLS BLOCK 2018/19

The following papers were circulated at the meeting

- A powerpoint presentation 'H&F Schools 2018/19 Budget Moving Towards the National Funding Formula'.
- 17/18 Post MFG Budget table.
- Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma.

Copies of the papers tabled at the meeting were circulated to Schools' Forum members subsequent to the meeting.

DM welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the papers and summarised the decisions which had been made at the Schools' Forum meeting held on the previous week.

He explained that a final decision on the formula had been postponed until today's meeting. The Schools' Forum had had concerns about funding growth in schools that the LA (Local Authority) had not supported. Following the meeting held on 10 January 2018 he had taken on board the Schools' Forum comments and he had amended the budget figures accordingly.

The following changes had been made, the impact to the budget is given in brackets -

- School Growth – the Schools’ Forum believed that only LA supported growth should be funded, at actual numbers on roll (-£78k).
- Falling Rolls – it had been explained at the previous meeting that Academies lagged funding meant that they aren’t impacted until their next financial year (-£258k).
- MFG - it had been noted that a number of schools had benefited disproportionately and eligibility had been reviewed (-£420k).

DM explained that when looking at the figures it should be remembered that more money than expected was moving from secondary to primary schools. This was because of EAL3 figures - so this area had been parked for the moment.

It was also noted that All Saints and The London Oratory are both below the floor and the School’s Forum had asked about closing the gap. Normand Croft was the best funded school in the borough – this was a historical issue from 12/13 that he was still trying to unpick.

Overall £750k had been released into the High Needs Block. However, it was important that the Schools’ Forum bear in mind that the changes proposed require the approval of the ESFA.

In going through the PowerPoint presentation the following was reported -

Growing Schools/ Expanding Schools – Burlington Danes funding had been scaled back because the LA had supported one form entry and not an expansion to two form entry.

Falling Rolls at Flora Gardens and Sullivan are due to historic reasons - trying to support both schools. It was noted that any decision to support was subject to ESFA approval.

The summary of movement by Factor and Phase was received and the changes away from using FSM and IDACI were noted – it is a phased transfer - there is a need to protect the secondary phase – there is still a large differential between primary and secondary funding. Any changes to the model will have an effect, the overarching aim is to avoid too large an impact on individual schools.

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) – DM stated that fewer schools now fall into the minimum requirement. It was noted that the complete list of schools is given in the PowerPoint presentation.

DM added that there are outstanding queries with regards to Normand Croft Community School and Phoenix Academy. At Phoenix Academy the query is around the rate value which should have gone down to £7,00 but had gone up to £8,300.

17/18 Post MFG Budget table

The table circulated at the meeting was noted. Schools listed in green had gained, schools where the year on year figure was shown in pink had lost budget. The biggest driver of the budget for any school is roll numbers.

DM explained that there was a small subset of schools where there had been a smaller drop in the budget and this was due to small changes in the roll numbers. The expectation given by the Government was that all school budgets would go up marginally. The Schools' Forum noted that DM would be talking to Burlington Danes about their budget. At Wormholt Park Primary falling roll support had not been triggered, it was due to demographic changes and the changes made to the different factor values, however, the change in the budget was not a significant amount.

Following questions from TS, DM stated that Phoenix Academy are aware of the drop in budget (the school had received 19 first preferences), the departing Yr. 11 had not been replaced by the same number of Yr. 7 pupils. At Hurlingham Academy it was noted that the budget increase is roll driven. At Lady Margaret School and the London Oratory there is a need to look at the factors that will benefit them.

TS stated that the NFF is detrimental to secondary schools in H&F. He asked if it was likely that in two years' time changes of a similar magnitude would again have to be made again. DM replied that it was his understanding that the Government are committed to an increase of 1.5% for the next two years. He added that if the LA was working from a blank sheet there would be a different conversation. However, the exercise had been to look at historic distributions with the aim of not distorting figures too much. One measure - EAL meant that primary schools benefitted far more than secondary schools. Prior Attainment - GK stated that it reflects the reality of what schools are dealing with. The government is taking money out of London and the Schools Forum can deal with gradual reductions, however, it is clear that one form entry primary schools as a model are increasingly unsustainable.

DM added that there needs to be clear place planning and greater clarity with regard to developments. There is a surfeit of new schools in some Boroughs including Kensington & Chelsea and Ealing. Collectively the relationship has been to work together and support. The LA has to broker relationships, he hoped that a number of new developments will help. Old Oak should be on stream in the next two years. The nature of the development at Earls Court had changed over time but that Normand Croft had been ideally placed for any expansion. If things do not change, there would need to be a considered response, however, the LA is committed to helping schools. H&F is unique in London in that there had been an increase of numbers in both phases but a number of students had gone in to Free schools. The LA did not think there is a need to expand Free Schools. Some schools, such as, The Fulham Boys School and Sacred Heart High School are taking in extra pupils, but they are coming in from outside of the Borough. There is a need to look at where children are coming from and the LA needs to help parents to prioritise preferences for schools in the Borough.

The Chair asked DM about the pressures for the coming year. DM referred to the growing Free Schools including WLFS Primary and Earls Court Primary - there is a demand for places at the school and when the Earls Court Free School moves site there will be an increase in places.

Action GK referred to the 15% of the budget which is distributed via FSM and IDACI and he asked about the percentage of the budget distributed by the various factors. DM to provide a comparison on the percentage of funding distribution between the various factors. EAL and prior attainment are approximately 5%.

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

DM presented the proposed formula. He stated that he had noted the peculiarities around funding at the meeting held on 10 January 2018. It was noted that the proposals were still to be signed off by the ESFA.

Following discussions, it was -

RESOLVED:-

That the formula, as set out, should be AGREED.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that the LA was awaiting clarification on FSM eligibility. It was reported that a letter had been received the previous Friday from the ESFA on the distribution rather than the amount which was to be received.

7. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Future dates still to be agreed.

The meeting ended at 2.35pm.

Chair