

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM  
THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2010**

Chair: Tony Brockman

Vice-Chair: Tony Hartney

Attendance:

Quorum: 40% of current membership

***The Constitution states that non-attendance at three consecutive meetings results in disqualification of membership. Apologies for absence should be submitted to the Clerk at [jmosarski@googlemail.com](mailto:jmosarski@googlemail.com) or telephone GSTU 0208 4895030***

Term of Office: 3 years

School Members		Non-School Members
Head teachers	Governors	
Special Schools [1] * Gerald Hill [The Vale]	<i>Special Schools [1]</i> * Vik Seeborun [The Vale]	(non-Executive) LB Haringey Councillor [1] Cllr Zena Brabazon
<i>Children's Centres [1]</i> * Val Buckett [Pembury House CC]	<i>Children's Centres [1]</i> * Melian Mansfield [Pembury House Children's Centre]	<i>Professional Association Representative [1]</i>  * Tony Brockman [Substitute: Julie Davies] [Haringey Teachers' Panel] <i>Trade Union Representative [1]</i> Pat Forward [UNISON]  <i>[Children's Service Consultative Cttee]</i>
<i>Primary Community [7]</i> * Andrew Wickham [Weston Park] A Maxine Pattison [Ferry Lane]  * Chris Witham [Rhodes Ave]  Vacancy  * Cal Shaw [Chestnuts] * Jane Flynn [Alexandra Primary] A Hasan Chawdhry [Crowland]	<i>Primary Community [7]</i> * Walter Smith [Risley Avenue]  A Nathan Oparaeché [St Mary's CE Jnr] * Sarah Crowe [Devonshire Hill Primary] * Asher Jacobsberg [Welbourne] * Vacancy * Louis Fisher [Earlsmead] A Laura Butterfield [Coldfall]	14-19 Partnership [1] Jane O'Neil {CHENEL}
<i>Secondary Community [4]</i> * Alex Atherton [Park View Academy] * Tony Hartney [Gladesmore] Patrick Cozier [Highgate Wood] A June Jarrett [Sixth Form Centre]	<i>Secondary Community [4]</i> Janet Barter [Alexandra Park]  * Maria Jennings [NPCS] * Imogen Pennell [Highgate Wood] * Sarah Miller (Gladesmores)	<i>E.Y. Private and Voluntary Sector</i>  * Susan Tudor-Hart
	<b>Observers [non-voting]</b> <i>LBH Cabinet Member for Children &amp; YP</i> * Cllr Lorna Reith  <i>Learning &amp; Skills Council</i> Ruth Whittaker  <i>Haringey (Teaching) Primary Care</i>	<b>Substitute Members at this meeting</b> * Bill Barker for June Jarrett  Also present

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*Trust*

Vacancy

\* Steve Worth, School Funding  
Manager

*Early Years Dvpmnt & Childcare  
P'ship*

\* Neville Murton, Head of Finance  
CYPS

\* Ian Bailey, Deputy Director CYPS

*Greig City Academy*

\* Jan Smosarski, Clerk

Paul Sutton

Peter Lewis, Director CYPS

Kevin Bartle

\* indicates attendance

A indicates apologies received

TONY BROCKMAN [ CHAIR ] IN THE CHAIR

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<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S WELCOME</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked officers for the quality of the papers provided, recognizing that this had been very challenging given the pressure of work for finance officers.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
2.1	Cllr. Toni Mallett is no longer a forum representative as she has become a member of the council cabinet. Her place will be taken by Cllr. Zena Brabazon. The Chair thanked Cllr. Mallet for her work on the forum.	
2.2	At the last HGA meeting Melian Mansfield was elected as the Forum representative for Children's Centres and Nurseries.	
2.3	Asher Jacobsberg, governor at Welbourne Primary School was elected as a primary governor representative on the forum. The Chair welcomed him to the meeting.	
2.4	Tonight is Gerald Hill's last meeting on the forum, as he will be retiring in the near future. The Chair thanked Gerald for his many years of service on the forum and the erudite contributions he had made to meetings as he put forward the case for special schools.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS</b>	
	Apologies were received from Mark Rowlands, Maxine Pattison, Nathan Oparaeché, Laura Butterfield and Hassan Chawdhry.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	There were no new declarations of interest.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010</b>	
5.1	<b>AGREED</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 were agreed and signed as a true record.	

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<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010</b></p> <p><b>Minute 6.5 – Fraud</b> – AW asked if there was any possibility that the authority would consider payments to and from school being made electronically. SW confirmed that the authority was looking into this possibility.</p>	
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p>	<p><b>THE SCHOOL OUTTURN AND BALANCES 2009-10</b> - Neville Murton, head of finance for CYPS and Steve Worth, School Funding and Policy Manager</p> <p><i>Purpose of report for information and for decision</i></p> <p>Balances held by schools in Haringey have diminished by £2.2 million in the last year. Average Balances held by Haringey schools have been getting progressively lower than balances held by other schools nationally. The previous government had been concerned that too much money was being held by schools overall and had instructed LA's to implement claw back procedures for uncommitted balances that were above agreed limits. At the same time the number of schools in Haringey applying for licensed deficits is increasing. This is further evidence for the Fair Funding campaign as it demonstrates that Haringey is underfunded compared to similar authorities.</p> <p>This year £43,000 will be clawed back from schools with excessive balances. In addition there are a number of queries regarding other schools that need to be resolved. The forum has to decide how this money should be used: last year it was added to the contingency budget for schools in financial difficulties to apply for.</p> <p>The contingency fund for this year is £250,000 + £42,000 carried over from last year.</p> <p>William C Harvey have submitted a bid asking for funding for a joint project with Gladesmore. The funding for this project has now ceased and the school are looking to continue with the work begun by the project. Forum members discussed the issues raised by this application. They recognised the case that WCH had made but concluded that there were a number of projects where funding had now ceased and that if the clawback money were used to fund one or more of these projects it would only be equitable if all schools were notified of the possibility of funding from contingency in advance and all such schools invited to submit bids. £43,000 was a relatively small sum of money and would not be enough money to fund major projects across the borough.</p> <p><b>The Forum rejected the application for funding for the FABLE project by William C. Harvey.</b></p> <p>AA proposed that the money raised from the clawback + any remainder of the contingency fund, once applications from schools in financial difficulties had been agreed should go into the AEN factor to be used to raise the percentage of funding which should be paid to schools for AEN. The argument against this was that clawback funds are 'one off' amounts of money and if used to increase the percentage of the AEN payment could not be guaranteed in future years.</p> <p>An amendment to recommendation (c) : “That the money raised by the clawback and the remainder of any funds left over in the contingency</p>	

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<p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>7.10</p> <p>7.11</p> <p>7.12</p> <p>7.13</p> <p>7.14</p>	<p>fund once the applications from schools in financial difficulties had been considered “ was put to the vote.  <b>VOTES FOR: 6</b>  <b>VOTES AGAINST: 10</b>  <b>The amendment was lost</b>  AW reminded members that last year the LA had reserved the right to spend any balance of money remaining in the contingency fund. SW agreed that this had been the case, adding that having such a sum of money could potentially be very useful as there was no other fund open to the authority.  <b>Members agreed that the £43,000 clawback should be added to the funds in the contingency. AGREED</b>  CS noted that there was a small group of schools with increasing amounts of deficit year on year. She wondered what the LA planned to do about such schools. SW replied that there was a very small group of schools causing concern. Each set of circumstances was different and there was no one reason for the continuing deficits. The situation was being carefully monitored on a school-by-school basis.  <b>Recommendation a) The 2009-10 outturn position is noted – NOTED</b>  <b>Recommendation b) the position on Schools' balances at March 2010 is noted – NOTED</b>  <b>Recommendation c) The sums to be removed under the balance clawback arrangements are noted and members agreed that the same process should be used as in the previous year to allocate the contingency fund . NOTED &amp; AGREED</b>  .  <b>Recommendation d) That a panel of members is appointed to agree allocations from the contingency – AGREED</b>  The Forum appointed the following members as the panel to hear applications from schools in financial difficulty; Andrew Wickham, Sarah Crowe, Cal Shaw and Asher Jacobsberg. It was noted that no panel member can be from a school that will be submitting an application to the fund</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p><b>8 FINAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2010-11</b></p> <p>As the final allocation was only received today there was no written paper for this item. Although the LA sets budgets for schools in March they do not get the final figure until later in the year. The DSG is determined by the number of pupils in schools in January however the DFE has to carry out a lengthy exercise to check that pupils have not been double counted. This is the reason for the delay in authorities being informed of their final figures.  The final figure for Haringey is £172.13 million rather than the £172.31 million anticipated from the PLASC count. Effectively this is equivalent to a difference of 30 pupils.</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p><b>9. REVIEW OF THE HARINGEY SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA – Neville Murton</b>  <i>Purpose of report – for consultation and views</i></p> <p>A report to the last meeting of the Forum set out the process for review of the existing formula by which the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is</p>	

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	<p>devolved. Ideally this should be done every three years and the next three-year period begins in April 2011. Also at the last meeting a request was received to consider an increase the Minimum Basic Allocation (MBA) of the Sixth Form Centre. It had been agreed at the last meeting to review the levels of Age Weighted Pupil Units (AWPU) and this has been added to the work plan for the October meeting. A revised work plan was sent out with the papers.</p> <p>9.2 Currently there are 55 planned places for pupils with SEN transferring from the authorities special schools. The Sixth Form Centre is funded by the Young peoples Learning Agency with additional funding from Haringey. Currently the 55 planned places element funds for an inclusion co-ordinator and an administrative post but only part funds the Principal and Deputy Principal. The request has been made on the grounds that the part funding of the Principal and Deputy does not adequately match the amount of work that comes from having what is effectively a special school within the centre. Officers proposed that the weighting of this element of the planned places should be increased to a facto of 4 generating an additional income of £24, 597.</p> <p>9.3 GH suggested that if the formula for funding needed adjustment for the Sixth Form Centre this should be part of the same review as the Inclusive Learning Campuses (item 7 of this paper) and also include Heartlands High and Mulberry where it is planned to have units for autistic pupils, which will be part of the schools responsibilities.</p> <p>9.4 <b>AGREED -The Forum agreed that the consultation paper for the September meeting would set out a proposal to fund the additional weighting for the Sixth form Centre for the next financial year only pending a full review of the funding of planned places.</b></p> <p>9.5 Premises – in the past the funding formula for premises was based on floor area, condition of the building and suitability. The information used is now dated and there is no updated information on the suitability or condition of buildings. This may mean that the new formula should only be based on floor area. In addition two schools, which have undergone significant new build, have found that the energy costs for their new buildings are considerably higher than their old buildings. This may have to be built into the new formula. IB stressed that this problem is on two sites only and is not an issue in schools where BSF work is being undertaken.</p> <p>9.6 School Admissions Code – the new code on school admissions give parents the right to hold a school place for a Reception age child until they are of statutory school age. In Haringey the practice has been for children to start school in the September of the academic year in which they become five. Headteachers have raised concerns that if children have not taken their places for the year before the January PLASC count they will not receive any funding for that child in that academic year. <b>AGREED – it was agreed that the Forum should respond in writing to the DFE expressing concerns about this issue.</b></p> <p>9.7 Early Years Single Funding Formula – work is continuing – it is hoped to call an additional working party meeting before the next planned meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p>9.8 <b>AGREED -Split site factor – the Forum agreed that officers would give this further consideration and report back to the Forum in September.</b></p>	<p>TB &amp; officers</p> <p>Officers</p>
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<p>9.9</p> <p>9.10</p> <p>9.11</p> <p>9.12</p>	<p>Prior attainment factor – Avi Becker has advised that 30 schools boycotted the SATs tests. These schools will be asked to return teacher assessment (TA) levels which will have been moderated by the LA. AA pointed out that TA levels tend to be on average ½ a level lower than SATs levels and suggested that if the prior attainment levels were to be meaningful this approach would have to be used across all schools rather than just the ones boycotting the tests as it was important to have a consistent system in place. <b>SW agreed to take this back to Avi Becker for further advice.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation a) The Forum agreed that the consultation paper for the September meeting would set out a proposal to fund the additional weighting for the Sixth form Centre for the next financial year only pending a full review of the funding of planned places. AGREED -</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation b) That members endorse the work underway on other potential changes to the funding formula and note the intention to report again in September. AGREED</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation c) That members note the changes arising from the Schools Admission Code 2010 and that changes to the Funding Formula will be exemplified when the Schools Financing Regulations 2011 are available. AGREED</b></p>	<p>S.W.</p>
<p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p>	<p><b>THE DSG CONSULTATION – FINAL RESPONSE –</b> Neville Murton, Head of Finance for CYPS <i>Purpose of paper – update for noting</i></p> <p>The Chair reported that he had been part of a successful delegation to Lord Hill, Under Secretary of State for Schools. He thanked David Lammy, MP for securing the meeting and attending. He further thanked Lynne Featherstone, MP for joining the delegation along with Cllr. Lorna Reith, Peter Lewis. The issue continues to attract cross party support, which further emphasises the unfairness of the current ACA for Haringey. Civil servants had picked up that there were a significant level of responses to the consultation from Haringey (an estimated 1,672 at that point)</p> <p>SW informed members that there would be a second round of consultation towards the end of July and that first indications of the probable outcomes would be in October / November.</p> <p>Cllr. Reith thanked everyone who had responded, she felt that Lord Hill had listened closely to the arguments – the differential between Haringey and Hackney and Islington now stood at about £1,300 a pupil.</p> <p><b>Recommendation a) That members note the response - NOTED</b></p>	
<p>11</p> <p>11.1</p>	<p><b>ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR IN THE AUTUMN TERM</b> -Neville Murton, Head of Finance for CYPS, Steve Worth, school Funding &amp; Policy Manager</p> <p>A working party has been set up to review the constitution, the working party will report back in September. However it will be necessary to elect a chair for the forthcoming year before the new constitution has been agreed. It is proposed under the new constitution to elect a chair for the</p>	

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<p>11.2</p> <p>11.3</p>	<p>life of the forum (3 years) rather than annually and to consider having more than one Vice Chair. The paper proposed that the election at the September meeting should elect a chair for the remainder of the length of this forum (2 years)</p> <p>Members discussed the proposal. AJ asked if there were a mechanism for removing a chair should that ever be the wish of the forum. The Chair said that there was not but that should be considered when the new constitution was being discussed as it was a valid point.</p> <p><b>Members agreed the proposed arrangements but agreed to elect a Chair in September for a period of one year only, and to elect only one Vice Chair in September. Changes to this system would be considered when the new constitution was presented. AGREED</b></p>	
<p>12</p> <p>12.1</p> <p>12.2</p> <p>12.3</p> <p>12.4</p>	<p><b>UPDATED FROM WORKING PARTIES</b> -Neville Murton, Head of Finance for CYPS, Steve Worth, school Funding &amp; Policy Manager  <i>Purpose of paper – for information, noting</i></p> <p>ACA Working Party – discussed under agenda item 10. The working party will continue to meet as necessary.</p> <p>EYSFF – the working party will report back in the Autumn Term. Cllr. Brabazon will be joining the EYSFF working party.</p> <p>Best Value Working Party – this group needs to meet in the near future as a matter of priority.</p> <p>Constitution Working Party – will report back at the September meeting.</p>	
<p>13</p> <p>13.1</p> <p>13.2</p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Academies – a meeting has been called for Headteachers and governors to discuss the implications for Haringey schools if some schools apply to become academies.</p> <p>Single Status – AW requested an update on the implementation of Single Status. NM agreed to ask Steve Davies to the next meeting to give an update.</p>	<p><b>NM.SW</b></p>
<p>14</p>	<p><b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010</p>	
	<p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending</p>	

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

**TONY BROCKMAN**

Chair