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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Education Board

Date: Thursday, 18th November, 2021

Place: MS Teams

Present: Jane Ladner (Chair) – Southend High School for Girls (Governor)

Julia Jones – Barons Court School (Headteacher)
Jim Johnson – Edwards Hall Primary (Headteacher)
Stuart Reynolds - Southchurch High School (Headteacher)
Darren Woollard - Blenheim Primary School (Headteacher)
Lisa Clark - Hamstel Infant (Headteacher)
Anthony McGarel - South Essex College
Jackie Mullan - St Christophers (SEN Trust)
Lee Thorne - YMCA
Shireeb Harub – Trade Unions
Bev Williams – CEO MAT Group representative (non-voting)

In Attendance: Councillor L Burton (Cabinet Member Children and Learning)
M Marks, B Martin, C Braun, P Grout, E Hammans and R Harris

Start/End Time: 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from R. Bevan, V. Wright, M. Jordan, D. Allen, D Taylor, L. Yelland and S. Tollworthy.

2 Sir David Amess - Tribute

The Education Board paid tribute to Sir David Amess and expressed their deepest sympathies and condolences to Sir David's family, friends and colleagues.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda)

Public Duties Fund

The Board was advised that the Resources Sub-Group will consider and bring back recommendations concerning the Public Duties Fund to the Board in December 2021.

5 Education Board Membership and Vacancies

The Board received a verbal update from the Principal Democratic Services Officer covering the current membership and vacancies. There continues to be one vacancy in the maintained primary sector, two vacancies in the academy secondary sector and one in the Academy primary sector. These vacancies will be re-advertised/promoted within the relevant sectors with the intention to fill them as soon as practicable.

The Board was informed that Edwards Hall maintained Primary school would shortly transfer to academy status and this will need to be reflected in the membership of the Board.

Resolved:

That the current membership and vacancies be noted and that the Director of Education and the Principal Democratic Services Officer review the membership and report back to the Board in December.

6 Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 Budget Planning and 2021/22 Budget Update

The Board considered a report from the Senior Finance Business Partner providing an update on DSG budget planning for 2022/23, following the Department for Education (DfE) July 2021 school funding announcements, and an update on the latest DSG budget for 2021/22, following the applied annual DfE July 2021 funding update changes.

The Board discussed the report and noted the positive funding announcements and the healthy position of the DSG budget.

Resolved:

1. That with regard to individual school's budget (ISB) planning for 2022/23, to continue on the trajectory of adopting the principles of the National Funding Formulae (NFF) (as referenced in paragraph 5.1 to 5.5 of the submitted report) and therefore:

1.1 Any mainstream school that attracts their core NFF pupil led funding factors (i.e. with no MFG or funding floor protections applied), to benefit from the full NFF applied circa 3% increase to those core funding factors per pupil.

1.2 All remaining mainstream schools whose per 2021/22 per pupil led funding rates are either above the revised NFF mandatory 2022/23 minimum funding amounts per pupil or core NFF funding rate per pupil as referenced in 2.1.1, will receive the same NFF maximum allowable 2% uplift per pupil.

2. That the approach of recommended minimum balances held in DSG reserves and the approach of one-off use of reserve balances where they are above those minimum levels (As referenced in 11.7 and 11.8), be approved.

7 Matters of the Moment

The Director of Education provided a verbal update on the following matters:

- Current position regarding the pandemic and schools;
- SEND peer review will take place from 23rd November to 26th November and will be looking at four specific areas of work of the Council. The outcome of the review will be reported back to the Board in the New Year;
- The final confirmation from the Council's Section 151 Officer on the FSM offer in the Borough was expected shortly;
- A number of Ofsted school inspections have taken place recently. The Westborough School has been designated as 'requiring improvement.' The outcomes for the other schools inspected were not in the public domain; and
- There was a contingency of Afghanistan refugees in the Borough and full-time education will be provided to the children via one of the Trusts.

8 School Performance Strategy

The Board received and considered the School Performance Strategy 2019-2023.

Resolved:

That the School Performance Strategy 2019-2023, be noted.

9 Report Back from Sub Groups

The Board received and considered the following Sub-Group minutes:

- (a) Resources Sub-Group held on 5th October 2021;
- (b) School Performance Sub-Group held on 12th July; and
- (c) Vulnerable Learners Sub-Group held on 15th October 2021.

The Board noted that there was one vacancy for a Primary representative on the Resources Sub-Group and a number of vacancies on the School Performance Sub-Group.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Sub-Groups listed above, be noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business for this meeting.

11 Date and time of future meetings

Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 8.15am
Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 8.15am
Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 8.15am
Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 8.15am

All meetings will be held at the Tickfield Centre.

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