Oldham Council

Minutes

Meeting of Schools Forum

Monday 18 March 2024
via Microsoft Teams
at 4.00pm

Present:

Liz Travis	Holy Trinity CE Primary (In the Chair)
Iain Windeatt	Trade Union Representative
Stuart Ash	Oldham Sixth Form College
Karl Newell	Crompton House School
Anthony Leighton	The Cranmer Trust
Nigel Woodworth	New Bridge Academy
Kate Hoggard	Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector
Tracy Cavangh	Holy Rosary RC Primary School

Also Present:

Tony Shepherd	Head of Schools and Learning
Amber Burton	Assistant Director SEND and Inclusion
Andy Cooper	Senior Finance Manager
Jean Coombs	Clerk

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Rob Higgins, Paul McGrath, Matthew Bulmer, Vicky Gibbons and Clare Roper.

1.3 Members were requested to declare any business, pecuniary and personal interests. No declarations were made.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

3 SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION

Andy Cooper gave un update on the Schools Forum Constitution.

Main points referred to:

3.1 The proposed changes are determined by the required representation based on the pupil numbers, in relation to primary and secondary schools, and the split between Maintained and Academies.

3.2 As a result, the primary representation should increase by one to eight; and the secondary representation is to remain at six. The Director of the Oldham Learning Board is to be removed and the fourth non-voting Local Authority representative is to be the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years.

3.3 Three new members have been appointed, but there are still five vacancies.

3.4 Stewart Ash asked what his designation was now on the Forum. Andy Cooper agreed to discuss that outside the meeting, but that his skills and knowledge would be an asset to the group.

3.5 Karl Newell asked who the secondary maintained school representative was. He was informed that there was a gap in their representation.

3.6 Andy Cooper pointed out that when members do not attend for three consecutive meetings they can be deemed as having resigned.

3.7 It was agreed that the Schools Forum representation would be the first agenda item at each meeting.

3.8 A member asked if a delegate could be sent to the meeting on a representative's behalf and could they vote. The response was that a delegate could be sent and could vote, but that if the representative did this for three consecutive meetings, then they would be deemed as having resigned.

3.9 Amber Burton asked whether she could attend as a non-designated Local Authority attendee. She was informed that she was welcome to attend as needed.

RESOLVED: that Schools Forum approve the revised Schools Forum Constitution for 2024-25

4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024/25: OUTCOME OF PROVIDER CONSULTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of an Early Years Representative, Tony Shepherd outlined the results of the Early Years finance and funding consultation. The actual responses were provided in the meeting papers and the conclusion to set different rates for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds was also outlined in the paper. The response to the consultation by the maintained sector was poor.

A member raised the issue of slow payouts of the funding and a general lack of response when queries were raised. This was not seen by all members, but

Amber Burton is to look into these specific issues, with the member who raised the query, and Tony Shepherd, Andy Cooper and the MAT will be copied into the response to the issues.

RESOLVED: that Schools Forum note the outcome of the provider Early Years funding consultation for 2024/25,

5 PROPOSED DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS FOR 2024/25

The proposed meeting dates will be sent out in due course.

The election of a Vice Chair is to be on the next agenda.

(There being no further business, members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 16.25pm).

Signed: ¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬_____
Chair

Date:
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