

School's Strategic Joint Consultative Committee

Date: Thursday 28.04.16
Venue: Wallasey Town Hall
Time: 4:00pm

Minutes of the Meeting

1.0 Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

1.1 Present:

Representing Wirral Council:

Cllr Tony Smith

Representing the Headteachers/Teachers Professional Associations and Trade Union:

NAHT - [REDACTED]

UNISON - [REDACTED]

UNISON - [REDACTED]

NUT - [REDACTED]

NASUWT - [REDACTED]

ASCL - [REDACTED]

ATL - [REDACTED]

NASUWT - [REDACTED]

Representing Education Management:

Sue Blevins, Senior Manager for HR & Workforce Management

Julia Hassall, Director of Children's Services

Andrew Roberts, Head of Planning and Resources

1.2 Apologies:

ATL - [REDACTED]

Sue Talbot, Schools Commissioning Manager

[REDACTED], NAHT

Councillor Cherry Povall

Councillor Pat Williams

Councillor George Davies

Councillor Wendy Clements

1.3 Councillor Tony Smith chaired the meeting.

2.0 Minutes of 10th December 2015

Agreed the minutes are a true record of the Meeting

2.1 Item 3.2 Joint Health and Safety Committee

It has been agreed that a representative from Health and Safety will attend School Operational JCC meetings in the future.

[REDACTED] confirmed that Academies do not have to report accidents to the LA which stops the Authority from compiling accurate overall statistics in this area. Julia Hassall agreed that this needs to be looked at from a Wirral pupil perspective.

2.2 Item 3.5 Pupil Intake Figures

Although there is a surplus of school places there are areas in Wirral where this is not the case.

Andrew Roberts agreed a report should be prepared looking at school places over constituency footprints.

It was requested that [REDACTED] attends the next meeting

Major areas of interest are :

- Schools that do not have enough pupils to open
- Building of new houses which increases demand in certain areas
- Import and export of pupils in and out of the Wirral
- Focus on secondary and primary schools for the time being with a view to special schools and nurseries later.

[REDACTED] asked if we could look at figures for pupils who turn up at schools they have not been allocated to.

3.0 Ratify School Holidays for 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – 2019

Julia Hassall has spoken with Sue Talbot Schools Commissioning Manager as there continues to be unease regarding term-

[REDACTED] commented on some of the issues that are coming up including:

- Christmas holiday dates are very close to Christmas – it was recommended schools make use of the closure days to finish school earlier.

- Dates to be sent out to schools with set start and end dates with flexibility in between for schools to decide. Staff need to be notified as soon as possible
- Dates for Catholic school holidays i.e. the Easter break is not the same as other community schools.
- Dates were originally set to match other authorities however there are some fluctuations.

The dates attached to these minutes have now been confirmed.

4.0 Redundancy

There have been a number of cuts to school staff with a 50/50 split of compulsory and voluntary redundancies.

See Notes attached from Sue Blevins – Senior Manager for HR & Workforce Management.

Primary Schools have lost a number of support staff. There is concern regarding what impact this will have in the class rooms. Actual figures were not available at this meeting but are available on request from Sue Blevins.

5.0 P.F.I.

A report was considered by the Schools Forum on PFI costs in schools. The report compared the Facilities Management costs in PFI schools with equivalent costs in non-PFI schools. It concluded that there are differences and overall the 9 PFI schools pay about £400,000 more in total than other schools. This matter will be considered further in a Schools Forum working group and may result in changes to the schools finding formula.

██████████ asked if all schools become academies will the council be left with a PFI bill?

Andrew Roberts confirmed that the Council continues to be responsible for the PFI contract totalling £12m pa. However schools and academies are responsible for facilities management costs and any changes from future benchmarking exercises.

6.0 Policies

Sue Blevins – Senior Manager for HR & Workforce Management stated that every year we have an annual review of policies including any statutory changes/updates. Since June-Sept seven policies/procedures have been changed. These include Sickness, Absence, Whole School Pay Policy and redundancy.

The Redundancy changes include moving from a 90 days-consultation period with staff to 45 Days. This has raised concerns with Unions however it meets with all local and national guidelines. The main concern from the Unions was if someone only works a couple of days a week 45 day period is much shorter than a full time worker. Sue Blevins stated that the 45 day consultation period is a minimum time period not a maximum and confirmed that the majority of schools have met this timeline. Extending may have a detrimental effect on financial plans etc.

All new policy documents are available on WESCOM

7.0 School Places

Covered in the discussion regarding the previous minutes (see section 2.2)

8.0 Facilities Buy Back

Sue Blevins provided all attendees with a spreadsheet of statistics regarding the school buy back for facilities time broken down into school types i.e. academies etc. However she stated that the figure at the moment is not a complete picture as a number of schools have not sent back their decisions.

It was questioned by Julia Hassall whether or not the schools have actually responded with a completed form stating they do not want it or whether we have simply not heard back from them? The reply was that the form does not have a "no" column so it is difficult to know if they have failed to complete it or simply left it blank.

There is also concern how many Academies were buying in and the issue that was raised is that they run September to August and maintained schools run April to March.

There are 3 levels of service: Premier/Standard/Standard2. The letter went out all secondary schools and academies. A reminder will be sent to chase the outstanding replies.

9.0 Any other Business

It was agreed through the political arm of the LA that Wirral is being pressured to convert schools to Academies which may have a detrimental effect on our pupils.

10.0 Dates of Future Meetings

June 9th 2016

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