

THE CUMBRIAN SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31st MARCH 2003

PRESENT

Mr A. Abernethy	(Carlisle Secondary)
Mr R. Alston	(Foundation Secondary)
Mr P. Bell	(Community and VC Primary)
Mr A. Bobbett	(Conservative Group – CCC)
Mr S. Bowditch	(Special Schools)
Mr C. Brooksbank	(Foundation Primary)
Mr A. Bryant	(Cumbrian Governors' Council)
Mr C. Clarke	(South Lakeland Secondary)
Mr I. Davies	(Diocesan Authorities)
Mr J. Douglas	(V.A. C of E)
Mrs T. Eyre	(Copeland Primary)
Mr M. Hrynkow	(Barrow Primary)
Mr C. Rafferty	(Allerdale Primary)
Mr D. Robinson	(Eden Secondary)
Mr R. Rogers	(Eden Primary)
Mr A. Rutter	(Teachers Professional Associations)
Mrs M. Saunders	(Community and VC Secondary)
Mrs J. Stocker	(Cabinet Member for Education)
Mr B. Thomas	(The Early Years Partnership)
Mr M. Woodburn	(South Lakeland Primary)

Officers in attendance :

Mr J. Nellist	(Director of Education)
Mr D. Johnston	(Education)
Mr A. Hodge	(Education)
Mr M. Scott	(Education)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from :

Mr P. Shaw	(Allerdale Secondary)
Mrs L. Moffatt	(Barrow Secondary)
Mr P. Chappelhow	(Conservative Group – CCC)
Ms V. Hallard	(Cumbrian LSC)
Mrs R. Denby	(Small Primary Schools)
Ms S. Gaston-Parry	(Copeland Secondary)

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2003

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2003 were agreed.
There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. BUDGET PRESENTATION

A budget presentation was made to Forum Members by David Johnston and Anton Hodge.

David Johnston began by outlining the funding mechanisms for 2003/04 and provided details of the settlement agreed for the Education Budget. Anton Hodge continued by providing a detailed analysis of the figures and the impact on school budgets for 2003/04.

In the debate that followed a number of issues were raised as follows :

The effect of increased staffing costs across schools in the County.

The effect of the Fair Funding formula in distributing resources to schools and the apparent disparity it produces.

The response to be made to the Secretary of State on Cumbria's budget settlement.

The Chairman thanked David and Anton for their presentation on behalf of the Forum Members.

4. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LMS GROUP AND OTHER WORKING GROUPS.

The Forum considered a report which explored the development of the Schools' Forum and the establishment of links with other groups. A number of groups were suggested as follows :

Social Deprivation and funding
School size issues
Special Educational Needs
Contracts for schools

In addition a further two groups were proposed :

Voluntary contributions to schools
School funding – the operation of the formula

The Forum agreed to the establishment of the sub-groups identified above.

Members of the forum will receive an invitation in order that they can express an interest in being a member of a particular group .The membership of each group will then be determined by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Schools' Forum in consultation with officers.

It was agreed that the sub-groups would be given a remit to investigate a range of issues in detail and report back to the main forum on a termly basis. Approval was given for sub-groups to co-opt non-forum members who had expertise in a particular area onto the group.

The Forum agreed that the Chair should also become a member of the LMS Working Group.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Schools' Forum.

One proposal was received for Mr A Rutter and this was seconded. No further proposals were put forward.

It was agreed that Mr A Rutter be appointed to the position of Vice Chair.

It was also agreed that the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair was for one year.

6. LOBBYING AND LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOL FORUMS

The forum agreed that a policy of establishing links with other forums should be actively pursued to bring pressure to bear on national funding policy.

It was agreed that arrangements would be made for a delegation from the forum to meet with the Secretary of State to discuss issues relating to Cumbria. The delegation would comprise of the Chair, Vice Chair and County Councillor Mrs J.Stocker.

7. STANDING ORDERS

The forum considered a report which suggested that Standing Orders should be drawn up to govern the conduct and procedure of meetings. Members were invited to comment on the following issues :

Whether meetings will be open to the public

The principle of opening meetings to the public was agreed.

Forum decision-making and voting ; casting votes

It was agreed that the standard procedure for decision making and voting i.e. by majority and where appropriate with the casting vote of the Chair - should be adopted

Procedure for distributing minutes

It was agreed that minutes would be distributed via the web-site or e-mail within a week of the meeting, subject to them being agreed by the Chair or Vice Chair

Timing of Meetings

The following guidelines for timing of meetings were suggested :

Summer Term 2003 – meeting towards the end of the term

Autumn Term 2003 - meeting in late September
- meeting in Nov/Dec to discuss the budget

Spring Term 2003 - meeting in January to discuss the budget

It was agreed this timetable should be followed with dates being set and placed in the County Council Calendar.

Declarations of Interest procedures

It was agreed that this be incorporated into the Standing Orders.

The forum agreed that a draft of the Standing Orders incorporating the decisions taken should be prepared for the next meeting. The Chair/Vice Chair in liaison with officers will prepare the draft for the next meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Schools' Forum will be held towards the end of the Summer Term with the date and venue to be decided.