

Rainow School Finance Committee Minutes

23rd September 9.30am Part 1 (Via Teams)

Present: Joe Austin (FMSO), Sue Berzins, Peter Grogan, Jonathan Norris, Julien Rye, Rick Stockwell

Declaration of Interests:

There were no declarations of interest.

Pupil Numbers

Pupil numbers for October 2020 were revised to 189. Two additional children are now in receipt of FSM, and another child is eligible for Pupil Premium Plus.

Minimum per Pupil Funding

The Finance Committee queried the forecasted increase in this from £2,650 for 20-21 to £39,944 for 21-22. JA to clarify how this figure has been calculated.

EHCP Top up Funding

Top up funding has been confirmed for a KS1 child for 18hrs per week, but the school have not yet received the funding for this. JA to chase up. JN registered his concern regarding how the requirement for the school to have to pay the first £6000 for each child with an EHCP, coupled with the insufficient rate attached to EHCP funding, is leaving the school with a significant shortfall in funding each time they are awarded an EHCP. He questioned how this funding model could be maintained.

Teacher's Pay Grant

JN queried whether the Teacher's Pay Grant would continue for future years, but JA did not have any further information on this.

Covid Claim & Covid Catch-up.

SB & JN queried when (or if) we could expect to receive the funding related to the school's Covid expenditure (£4,500). JA was unable to provide any further information regarding dates, or if the school could even expect to receive any funding. Also, there was no date given as to when we could expect to receive the Covid Catch-up funding (which has already been factored into the budget).

Catering Costs

JR queried the Predicted to Year End costs for the School Meals Contract (£52,500). It was agreed to revise the forecast for 20/21 to £48k, to take into account the reduction of meals over the summer term.

Carry Forward

The revisions to the budget have resulted in a revised projected carry forward of £13,253 for 20-21, £5,876 for 21-22 and -£58,548 for 22-23.

Out of Schools Clubs

Unfortunately the school was not provided with any information regarding the possibility of furloughing Out of School staff until the deadline had passed, and therefore the salaries were paid as normal from March to August, without any income to offset this. This has made a significant impact on the historical surplus. In addition, both clubs have had to employ additional staff this term, in order to keep children in their 'Covid-safe bubbles', which has further increased costs. JN presented governors with a cost analysis, and after review and discussion, it was agreed that the prices would be temporarily increased and JN will write a letter to parents to inform them of this.

The meeting closed at 12 noon. Spring finance committee set for February 9th @9.15am