



Discovery Academy Council
Monday 25 March 2024 at 10:00
Discovery Academy, Park Grange Road, Norfolk Park, Sheffield,
S2 3QF

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Darren Dickinson	Chair	DD
Luci Windle	Executive Headteacher	LW
Lauren Pigg	Parent Governor	LP
Rachael Kent	Governor	RK
Tayla Hamilton	Teacher Representative	TH
Emma Jayne Bennett	Support Staff Representative	EB
Warren Carratt	CEO Nexus	CEO
Daniel Shirazi-Nejad	Deputy Headteacher	DSN
Sarah Hill	Parent Governor	SH
Also Present:		
Rebecca Horne	Governance Clerk	RH
Apologies:		
Andrew Hogg	Parent Governor	AH
Jim McIntosh	Governor	JM

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. <u>To receive apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from JM and AH.	
1.2. <u>To accept apologies for absence</u> Apologies were accepted from JM and AH.	

<p>2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS</p>	
<p>2.1. Best We Can Be Awards</p> <p>This item is to be removed from the agenda.</p>	
<p>3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p>	
<p>4.1 Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>5. DISCOVERY ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES</p>	
<p>5.1 To approve the minutes of the following meetings: Discovery Academy Council meeting held on 11 December 2023</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The confirmation of the Vice Chair was agreed. This will now be Rachael Kent (RK).</p> <p>LW explained the need for other roles and interests. The roles have been identified within the Ofsted framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership & Management – DD • Quality of Education (focus on curriculum) • Behaviour & Attitudes • Link Governor Role for Personal Development • Link Role for Vulnerable Children • Lower School & Upper School <p>4.1 - LW previously explained that the school had invested in Dr. Frost, an online program that covers material up to A Level standard. There have been challenges in understanding assessments from a parent's point of view. LW suggested uploading a video to Seesaw, a communication platform used by the school, to provide explanations on how to use Dr. Frost effectively. ACTION – LW to upload a video onto Seesaw for families.</p> <p>6.1 – A date was agreed for the Governors Developmental Session. This will take place on Wednesday 8th May, 10-12pm. ACTION – Clerking Services to send out a diary date to members.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">LW 24/06/24</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CLERKING SERVICES 28/03/24</p>

<p>5.3 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>There was one slight amendment to the minutes with a highlighted change.</p> <p>4.1 LW explained every week there is a safeguarding briefing from Andrew Hall. Andrew Hall is a National Advisor for safeguarding and sends a newsletter every half term.</p>	
<p>6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</p>	
<p>6.1. Headteacher Report</p> <p>LW explained there are now 102 pupils on roll at the school, not 101 as the document states.</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p> <p>LW mentions significant work is being undertaken with the school's Subject Leaders. and notes that a "maths deep dive" recently took place with the Trust. Subject Leaders at Discovery AC are linked with those at Abbey AC and also attend different network meetings as part of Nexus MAT. Subject Leaders are also linked with various hubs outside of school, including English and Maths to enable them to develop their own professional learning and subject knowledge.</p> <p>LW highlighted the progress and impact of the three mandate groups within the school. The wellbeing warriors mandate group was highlighted as having the most significant impact.</p> <p>LW highlighted some adjustments in the capital works plans and allocations for the school, particularly regarding the budget allocated for outdoor space improvements. Originally, there was an £80k budget earmarked for these outdoor developments. However, due to delays in the building being signed over, LW mentioned that some of this budget will be re-allocated.</p> <p>The decision to re-allocate some of the budget is influenced by student voice. Six new iPads have been ordered for each class, along with new laptops.</p> <p>LW indicated that students have expressed an interest in having more computing-type lessons. In response to the students' request the school is looking to recruit a new IT teacher.</p> <p>LW explained from the next academic year all teaching staff will become Apple educated.</p> <p><u>Staff Sickness Absence</u></p> <p>LW's report indicates that overall, staff sickness levels at the school are generally low and that sickness among staff is generally seasonal.</p>	

LW outlines changes in the school's approach to Team Teach training and its impact on staff development. Initially, the school utilised its INSET days to conduct Team Teach training for staff. There has been a shift in the school's procedures regarding Team Teach training. Instead of conducting training every 2-3 years as previously done, the school now requires staff to undergo Team Teach training annually. As a result of the procedural change, LW mentioned that staff have been re-trained in Team Teach. By the end of the academic year, the school aims to have three members of staff who are internal trainers in Team Teach.

Quality of Education

LW indicated that everything highlighted in blue under the "Quality of Education" section is incorporated into the school development plan for the academic year. The school recently conducted pupil interviews and voices were listened to. During the interviews, students were asked about their subject preferences, including which subjects they would choose and which they wouldn't. Languages received positive feedback from students during the interviews. As a result, the school has decided to include languages in the qualification pathway for Key Stage 4 (KS4).

Students provided positive feedback on music lessons. The school arranged for a music teacher to come into the school, which resulted in a highly positive experience.

LW explained the school are doing a curriculum review after the half term.

LW stated the Teaching Assistants (TAs) have developed their own version of the teacher toolkit. This is now condensed to a one-page format.

LW highlighted developments in creating conducive writing environments for students and plans for further improvement in writing skills with writing spaces being established in the classrooms. The creation of writing spaces was achieved through the development of pupils' oracy skills. LW reported that students' writing has flourished this year. The school will focus more in-depth on writing in the upcoming term, which will include collaboration with Nick Whittaker from Learn Sheffield.

In terms of the curriculum, LW reported a recent review both internally by Nexus and externally by Learn Sheffield were really positive.

LP – are there any opportunities to do enrichment either after school or at lunchtimes? LW, we just don't get good attendance with after school or lunchtimes.

LW discussed pupil engagement in learning and end-of-year progress data, particularly focusing on reading outcomes. Reading performance was reported as disappointing, with only 54% of students meeting their target in the autumn term. LW mentioned there was a mis-match in the data collection process.

LP – is there something more we could do with reading? Programs, like Accelerated Reader? Quizzes? LW, we do use things like Lexia and also Dr Frost. We could probably send some log ins home for these. **ACTION – LW to look more in-depth at options relating to resources that could maybe be sent out to**

LW
24/06/24

parents in relation to students who would require this hub along with a house points system.

LW explained in terms of ring-fenced grants, this is around pupil premium money and sports premium. LW explained in more detail what the grants have been used for.

Behaviour and Attitudes

LW mentioned that all staff underwent re-training in Team Teach, specifically focusing on de-escalation techniques. The school offered an online parent support group aimed at assisting young people who may be struggling. Unfortunately, LW noted that the online parent support group was not well attended.

LW explained the house system is being embedded in the school and three mascots have been purchased.

Exclusions & Suspensions

LW reported only one suspension has taken place this term.

Attendance Data

LW highlighted a slight decrease in attendance at the school, despite the attendance rate still being above the national average for special educational settings. This has been impacted for various reasons, holidays, medical needs and illness.

Personal Development

LW explained the sensory OT is being used effectively.

LW explained the school continues to build the careers curriculum in preparation for adulthood.

6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP

This was circulated for information only.

6.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF

This was circulated for information only.

6.3 Budget Report

LW reported no concerns with the budget. The only change was in relation to the £80k budget which was discussed earlier in the meeting. CEO explained the Trust oversees the budget and scrutinises this in detail.

6.4 School Calendar

<p>LW reported a slight amendment has been made to the school calendar and the correct version will be uploaded onto the school website for information.</p> <p>6.5 Cabinet Member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament</p> <p>Pupil Parliament will attend the next meeting in June.</p> <p>6.6 Skills Audit</p> <p>These will be emailed to members after the meeting. ACTION – Clerking Services to email members.</p>	<p>CLERKING SERVICES 26/03/24</p>
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>The CEO, Nexus MAT gave an update on Trust Issues.</p> <p>Significant efforts are being made in collaboration with Sheffield City Council to address their deficiencies or inadequacies. In relation to Discovery AC, it seems they are encountering a high number of tribunals.</p> <p>The Trust has made arrangements for Holgate Meadows, to join the Trust on September 1st, 2024. Upon joining the Trust, Holgate Meadows will undergo a name change and be renamed Lotus Academy.</p> <p>There have been developments regarding sixth form education, particularly involving Nexus MAT. Nexus have taken over The Source building at Meadowhall, renaming it to Enterprise Works. A significant portion of the Enterprise Works building will be dedicated to sixth form provision. This provision will primarily cater to students from Sheffield, Kenwood Academy Council, and Bents Green. This expansion of sixth form provision is expected to increase capacity and offer additional pathways for students in the area.</p> <p>The Trust has initiated discussions with Sheffield College regarding the Peaks Site. If the discussions with Sheffield College yield positive outcomes, it suggests that there may be opportunities for sixth form pathways for Discovery AC.</p> <p>The Trust is in a phase of growth and expansion. Bents Green has expressed its desire to become part of the MAT.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>8.1 To consider any other urgent business</p> <p>None raised</p>	
<p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>	
<p>9.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None raised.</p>	

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 24 th June 2024	10:00 - 12:00	Discovery Academy
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE