



Discovery Academy Council
Monday 24 June 2024 at 10:00
Discovery Academy, Park Grange Road, Norfolk Park, Sheffield,
S2 3QF

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

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

<p>2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p>	
<p>3.1 Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>4. DISCOVERY ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES</p>	
<p>4.1 To approve the minutes of the following meetings: Discovery Academy Council meeting held on 25 March 2024.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>4.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>5.2 - In LP absence, LW gave feedback regarding understanding assessments from a parent's point of view. A couple of parents have fed back that they would like to vary the timings of events a little. They feel there are a lot in the afternoon which can conflict with picking up children from other schools. A video has been uploaded but a personalised approach will still be taken forward as some parents still struggle with access on video.</p> <p>5.2 – LW explained the Developmental Session went ahead in May. LW feedback in LP absence. LP explained how fantastic Mr Shirazi was leading that session. A great advocate for the school and we had a good couple of hours working through the design of the children's reports/assessment. I think the end result is much clearer including the video that runs alongside it to explain that. It was great to hear about the different types of qualifications available for our children and my feedback was that we need to talk about this more and celebrate that.</p> <p>LW explained it would be useful to have 3 Governors Developmental Sessions over the year. ACTION – Clerking Services to send out diary dates to members.</p> <p>6.1 – As discussed, there has been a temporary hold on sending out new reading initiatives due to the current busy term. However, significant efforts will be implemented in the Autumn term to enhance the reading strategy. DSN explained during the upcoming six-week holidays, teachers will record themselves reading a variety of stories. These recordings will be compiled into a YouTube playlist, providing students with access to engaging reading material. ACTION – Reading and Pupil Engagement - this will be carried forward to the 9th December meeting.</p> <p>6.6 – Skills Audit will be sent out again. ACTION – Clerking Services to send out to members again. Hard copies will also be available.</p>	<p>CLERKING SERVICES 09/12/24</p> <p>LW 09/12/24</p> <p>CLERKING SERVICES 09/12/24</p>

5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>5.1. Headteacher Report</p> <p>LW explained there are currently 101 pupils on roll, Years 10 and 11 are not included at present. The enrolment is projected to increase to 117 pupils by September 2024.</p> <p>LW stated the school still has a number of tribunals to handle and the school is approaching 300 consultations for this year.</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p> <p>LW has explained that there will be four new teachers starting in September 2024. Of these four new teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two will be replacing two current teachers who are leaving. • Two will be added to accommodate the extra growth. <p>LW explained that in relation to safeguarding, the school continues to perform exceptionally well. Safeguarding remains a strong aspect of the school and the training that staff receive is excellent.</p> <p>LW discussed the ongoing development of the Academy Council. There is an encouragement for Governors and Academy Council members to engage in school monitoring at a strategic level. LW believes that formalising the additional meeting will be highly beneficial.</p> <p>DD - Do you think we need to clarify the purpose of the Academy Council for our colleagues? CEO: The roles and responsibilities of the Academy Council are clearly defined in the terms of reference. Our focus should be on the valuable time investment in the QA calendar.</p> <p>Suggestions were been made to improve the QA document by incorporating a new column designated for Governor. The members agreed this was a good idea."</p> <p>LW reported that mandate groups have been highly successful this year. Additionally, there are plans to install more outdoor equipment during the upcoming 6-week holidays as part of outdoor development efforts.</p> <p>LW mentioned that two recent residentials took place where students opted to camp at the school. This residential was highly successful and received excellent feedback from both students and parents.</p> <p>LW explained that staff sickness absence rates are good, but there is a relatively high turnover in the workforce.</p> <p><u>Quality of Education</u></p>	

LW stated that extensive work has been undertaken this academic year to refresh the curriculum and develop the KS4 offer.

LW explained that extensive work has gone into developing a Teaching Assistant (TA) toolkit. The core group of TAs are extremely effective and talented professionals who work with children and support the apprentice TAs that the school is developing.

The teaching and learning cycle profile remain positive and will continue into the next academic year, as it aligns effectively with the teacher standards.

LW reported that the school's enrichment days have been a huge success. Heritage Day, in particular, was highlighted as the best day the school has had. The support from parents was excellent.

LW explained that the school utilises ring-fenced grants very effectively due to rigorous tracking. They continue to employ the approach of Quality first teaching.

LW highlighted that the Sports Premium is highly effective for the school, with pupils showing strong engagement. Recently, a dance festival took place which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

The school's sports day has been rescheduled for July 4th and will be held at Norfolk Park.

LW highlighted the importance of E-Safety and noted that 90% of E-Safety incidents occur at home rather than at school. An information session for parents will be attempted again. LW is hopeful that the session will be led by the E-Safety lead at Learn Sheffield and the police, focusing on safeguarding concerns.

SH – By highlighting their children’s behaviour it almost pinpoints the parents’ behaviour? LW – yes it does.

LW explained that both the IT curriculum and the computing curriculum have been revamped and closely aligned with PHSE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education).

Behaviour & Attitudes

LW reported that the school has made significant efforts this year to enhance staff understanding of challenging behaviour and de-escalation techniques. As a result, there has been a notable decrease in severe challenging behaviour incidents.

DD – Do we have a plan in place for the 4 new teachers that will be starting in September? DSN – Yes, they will receive team teach training within the first half term along with a really strong induction process.

LW explained that sanctuary spaces have been developed around the school, chosen by the pupils themselves. These spaces are now widely available and used

appropriately, contributing significantly to the re-engagement and de-escalation of children.

A house system has been successfully embedded in the school and is functioning effectively.

LW reported that only one pupil suspension took place early in the year.

Personal Development

LW highlighted that significant training has been provided for all staff to understand Autism and related presentations, including diagnosis. There has been a focus on developing staff expertise and understanding in Autism. The staff library is well stocked to ensure staff are informed by evidence-based practices. Additionally, staff are provided with opportunities to review plans from external professionals to further enhance their knowledge and skills.

LW explained that the school is continuing to build on the careers curriculum and prepare students for adulthood.

The school continues to participate in Nexus Youth Sport Trust initiatives, providing students with a variety of sporting events.

Community Voice Report

LW explained that the school has started the Genuine Partnerships Charter work to ensure that they collaborate with families in a manner where trust is central to decision-making.

Family Voice – LW gave feedback on behalf of LP. Fantastic comments and so lovely to hear all the positive experiences from the rest of the parents. I think a key takeaway is the desire for more experiences outside of the classroom whether that be a club/visits.

A couple of parents have fed back that they would like you to vary the timings of events a little. They feel there are a lot in the afternoon which can conflict with picking up children from other schools.

5.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP

CEO thanked LW for sorting the quality objectives in relation to the SIP.

5.1.2 Appendix 2 – Updated SEF

The SEF has been updated, and the school will undergo a support and challenge health check on July 4th. This updated SEF will be distributed for everyone to review at the end of the year.

5.2 School Dashboard Summary

The School Dashboard was circulated for information.

<p>5.3 Budget Report</p> <p>LW explained that the school's budget is currently in a healthy state. A significant portion has been allocated to supply costs.</p> <p>5.4 Next Year's Budget and Staffing Structure</p> <p>Looking ahead, next year's budget appears promising.</p> <p>5.5 Cabinet Member & MPs' Feedback from Pupil Parliament</p> <p>Pupil Parliament wasn't brought to this meeting. This will be carried forward to the December meeting. ACTION – Clerking Services to include on the December meeting agenda.</p> <p>5.6 Skills Audit Feedback</p> <p>As previously discussed above, the Skills Audit feedback form will be sent out to members again via email. LW will also print hard copies for individuals.</p>	<p>CLERKING SERVICES 09/12/24</p>
<p>6. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>6.1. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>CEO provided an update on the Trust's growth prospects in Sheffield and the ongoing work with the local authority to create more SEND sufficiency".</p> <p>6.2 Register of Interests – Annual Review</p> <p>The documents of interest need to be completed on Governor Hub by the end of term.</p>	
<p>7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>7.1 To consider any other urgent business</p> <p>None raised</p>	
<p>8. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>	
<p>8.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None raised.</p>	
<p>9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p>	

Monday 9 December 2024	10:00 – 12:00	Discovery AC
Monday 24 March 25	10:00 – 12:00	Discovery AC
Monday 23 June 2025	10:00 – 12:00	Discovery AC

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE