



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(Company No: 09630999)

LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

1.30pm Monday 25th March 2019

AT THE ACADEMY

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(Company No: 09630999)
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ATTENDEES:**Chair** - Carol White,**Head Teacher** - Jennifer Duncan**Parent representative** - Lesley May**Staff Representative** - Eilidh Mietelska**Community Representative** – Anne Kelly**OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerks** – Carole Tonner**1. Apologies**

No official apologies given

2. Welcome**3. Minutes of LAC meeting 27.11.18 for approval and matters arising**

- Amend date, add e to Anne Kelly's name, add c to Discovery
- Anne Kelly will be the representative for Nature's World replacing Scarlet Pink
- Minutes approved

4. Temporary accommodation update

- There will be five temporary classrooms and one additional temporary building used for hall/dining/therapy space/meeting room.
- MACE is contracted by DfE to project manage the temporary build - they will prepare and submit planning to Middlesbrough Council this week. Letters have been sent to all residents within the local area.
- The predicated end date for the temporary building to be in place and fully fitted out as working classrooms is mid-August 2019.
- It has been highlighted to DfE with regards to risk management the need for a plan B if the temporary accommodation is not ready in time for the start of the autumn term 2019.
- Currently we have 43 confirmed places out of the 48 but it is highly likely we will fill all 48 places.

5. Permanent accommodation update

- Contractors will be on site at Nature's World from April 2019; this will be to carry out ecology and soil surveys.
- Phase one will start around September 2019 this will cover design and planning application – planning will be submitted January 2020 - this should allow 18 months for the actual build.
- Before any clearance takes place contractors will liaise with Nature's World.

- AK asked if Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC) are involved in any discussions, she informed the group that MEC currently rent part of the land off Middlesbrough Council and access may become an issue if they are not consulted. AK was also worried about any of the land being sold off for housing.
- CW assured the group that the council has no plans for land from the plan to be put on the market for housing.
- CW asked AK if she could find out who/what are MEC and what is their remit.
- AK asked what the expected footprint size would be of the new build. No answer could be given currently but JD will provide AK with a copy of the red line map.

6. Headteacher report

The Headteacher circulated her report and the following points were raised/discussed:

- Good, productive 2 terms.
- Sharing a sensory space with Brambles.
- Bids to Cash for Kids and Teesside Philanthropic Society for a safe space including equipment, which is a sturdy structure, VR equipment has also been included in the bid. We can transfer this to the new build.
- Plans for temporary build has been submitted.
- Schedule of accommodation has been developed for the new build.
- Staff have covered a variety of training this term including deaf awareness, boardmaker, sensory integration and more.
- Curriculum provision has been well established, expectations are high and positive relationships have been quickly established.
- Positive feedback has been given from visiting agencies like Tree Tops, and school nurses highlighting the high expectations and good working relationships staff have with pupils, staff and other outside agencies.
- EM has successfully set up parent/carer workshops covering topics like communication, short breaks and local offer. Attendance has been high and we've had 100% feedback highly commending the sessions.
- The academy has introduced electronic workbooks for pupils. This allows staff to capture photographs, video and other evidence to demonstrate personal learning journeys.
- We continue to offer a range of enrichment activities naming a few as follows; Earthbeat Drama group, Christmas celebration production, Farm trips and EYFS trip to Pendragon.
- Further Activities are planned for example Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness), Nature's worlds visit, Easter Celebrations and African drumming.
- We continue to make community links with Friends of Nature's World, pupils from Brambles supporting Discovery pupils during lunchtime and Pennyman.

The committee thanked the Headteacher for her report

7. Suggestions from the group of further enrichment opportunities the academy could offer

- The chair noted that a number of good links had been made and advised of the importance keeping this manageable while in temporary accommodation.

8. Suggestions for community links we could explore

- Larchfield
- Unicorn Centre
- EAL – to be explicit for parent/carers looking at future events

9 Any other business

No other business

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on ***TBC - 1:30*** at Discovery Special Academy.

END OF MEETING