



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(Company No: 09630999)

LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

1.30pm TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2018

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, Christine Watson

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Scarlet Pink. A representative, Anne Kelly (FONW secretary), attended on her behalf. CW pointed out that in future, named LAC members cannot appoint substitutes. TVED is keen for the Friends of Nature's World to be the community representative so asked AK to discuss with SP to confirm the most appropriate representative.

2. Welcome and introductions

CW has been appointed by the trust to chair the Discovery LAC. CW welcomed everyone to the first LAC meeting and gave a brief outline of the role and purpose of the LAC.

3. Overview of the LAC and LAC responsibilities (Terms of Reference, governance overview and mechanisms)

CW explained in detail the Terms of Reference including the following:

- TVED Trust structure of the members, Trust Board and committees
- The structure and schools of Tees Valley Education (TVEd)
- Roles and responsibilities of LAC members
- Reporting arrangements and working arrangements
- The development of Discovery Special Academy to date.

4. Discovery overview (including awareness of strategic documents, building works, curriculum offer)

CW gave an update on the temporary accommodation DSA is currently in and how this will be developed over the next 2 ½ years. CW went on to further explain that the ESFA had agreed to fund more temporary buildings, which would be in place for the start of September Autumn term 2019. This will allow pupils and staff currently based at Pennyman site, to be all based on one site and an increase of 12 pupils a year for 2018/19 and 2019/20

CW explained that Nature's World is a possible site for the new Academy. Discussions are in the final stages. Contractors will be government choices. Consideration must be given to the needs of the pupils.

CW gave an insight into how the numbers of pupils will increase and the structure of year groups.

AK asked if pupils are expected to meet government expectation as in other schools. CW explained that the children would not sit the statutory tests (SATS) but there will be other academic expectations pupils would work towards. Each child is assessed on their specific needs and an EHCP plan is in place to ensure the child meets their full potential and their needs are addressed.

AK asked if we would go through Ofsted inspection. CW responded with yes, we would expect to be inspected within the seventh term after opening and judgements will be made as with any other school.

5. Overview of enrichment activities to date and those to come this term

Covered in Headteacher report see below.

Headteacher Report

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

- JD gave an insight into the review and development plan with an overview of the academy's vision and aims.
- JD explained how the temporary accommodation is utilised daily to maximise the development of the children
- JD spoke about the progress of the new build and that many aspects of the land will be taken into consideration for example treeline, soil studies, and endangered species. She spoke about the style/look and sustainability of the new build and how this will fit in with Nature's World environment.
- JD discussed the curriculum provision at Discovery and the variety of approaches, which includes traditional teaching methods for those pupils who are able to access subject specific learning. The curriculum is holistic and delivered through the following three areas of development, academic curriculum, therapeutic input and social & emotional curriculum.
- JD explained about the close working relationships that have been established with external agencies. This ensures that pupils have access to all relevant services and professionals and enables the holistic approach to teaching and learning.
- JD went on to discuss staffing, she emphasised that all staff had undertaken a robust induction. Staff attend meetings every week which include training. CPD is an on-going provision for all staff. Two members of staff have been appointed as cultural champions to ensure a wide range of enrichment activities are on offer. JD went on to highlight what enrichment activities have already taken place and ones that are planned.
- JD explained community links already in place and further links the Academy would like to build.
- The chair and headteacher asked the committee to consider further enrichment activities/community links the Academy could explore to enhance the provision. To be discussed further at the next LAC meeting.
- CW asked for information on protection orders on trees currently on Nature's World grounds.

The committee thanked the Headteacher for her report

6 Suggestions from the group of further enrichment opportunities the academy could offer

AK suggested that groups could start visiting Nature's world to plant bulbs.

No further suggestions at this moment.

7. Suggestions for community links we could explore

JD explained community links already in place and suggested further links the academy would like to build. To be discussed further at the next LAC meeting

8 Questions / suggestions from the committee – what would you like to see in future meeting within the TOR (terms of reference)

CW and JD asked the committee to consider further enrichment activities and community links that the academy could explore to enhance provision. To be discussed further at the next LAC meeting.

9 Any other business

No other business

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on ***Monday March 25th 2018 - 1:30*** at Discovery Special Academy.

END OF MEETING