



**TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

**(Company No: 09630999)**

**LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY**

**10.00am Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(Company No: 09630999)**  
**LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY**  
**10.00am Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Head Teacher** - Jennifer Duncan  
**Community Representative** – Anne Kelly  
**Chair** - Carol White  
**Parent Representative** – Philippa Booth

**OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerks** – Carole Tonner

**1. Welcome + Introductions**

Welcome to the new Parent Representative – Philippa Booth

**2. Apologies**

**Staff Representative** - Sian Lamb

**3. Minutes of the last meeting: matters of fact and for approval**

CW has made further amendments to the draft minutes and will send through for final copy. None of these are matters of fact.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda**

Previous minutes were approved and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.

**5. Headteachers report**

JD explained the structure of the Headteachers report for the purpose of the new parent representative Phillipa. JD highlighted the follow from her report

- we currently have a higher percentage of children with a diagnosis of autism.
- Attendance above average but this doesn't include any COVID related absences. We are aiming for a higher attendance rate in the new academic year. We have noticed the impact that COVID has had on the children's learning.
- We continue to have a broader curriculum on offer to all Discovery children and this will continue into the new academic year
- We now have a junior leadership team in place
- We plan to visit Natures World either as part of the summer school or September
- AK reminded the group of the plot of land kindly given to Discovery. Discovery are currently organising for the land to be cleared in preparation for the children's visit.
- Discovery is in budget – this has enabled us to recruit additional staff, buy bikes and climbing frames for the children and set up new classrooms in preparation for September.
- Fire and lockdown drill have all been successful as well as regular health and safety walks undertaken by the academy business manager

- PB spoke about parents understanding that the new build would still be a couple of years. JD said she would put an update in the newsletter going out today to clarify that it would be ready this time next year (2022)
- CW went on to explain the process of the new build.

## **6. Update on Temporary and New Build**

CW highlighted the following points regarding the development of the new build.

- The new build should be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 but discussions are still being had to bring this forward to May 27<sup>th</sup> 2022
- The contractors are now fully responsible for the site.
- Work started on ground works June 14<sup>th</sup>
- A 6ft fence will soon be erected all around the site.
- AK informed the group of some early vandalism. But security has been stepped up on site and there have been no other incidents
- CW informed AK that if there are any issues at all to contact JD who in-turn will contact CW.
- Between now and September contractors will concentrate on groundworks and flattening the site.
- AK informed the group that she has taken photographs of the development onsite and she will share these with JD
- A retaining wall will be built on the South West side of the site, this will be completed early September.
- Contractors are responsible for keeping the local community and stakeholders informed and up to date with progress on the site. This will be done via a newsletter, to which CW has the responsibility for signing the newsletter off. AK asked if the Friends of Natures World could also receive a copy of the newsletter.
- JD informed the group the newsletter will go onto the academies website and also sent out to parents.
- CW spoke about the future plans to improve the road leading into the site. This was an agreement with the local authority.

## **7. Appointment of New Chair**

CW reminded the group that she will be standing down from her role as Chair as from today.

JD informed the group that there was someone interested in the chairs post.

JD offered a heart felt thanks to CW for her work as the LAC Chair. She spoke of all her the incredibly hard work and that there wouldn't be Discovery without CW support. CW will continue as project manager

## **8. Suggestions for community projects/enrichment during restrictions**

The group were asked for any proposals for future use of the minibus. The minibus is up and running and is currently being used for educational visit for the Discovery children.

## **9 Any other business**

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Next meeting Autumn term