



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(Company No: 09630999)

LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

09:30am Monday 14th February 2022

Face to face Meeting

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(Company No: 09630999)
LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
09:30am Monday 14th February 2022
Face to face meeting

ATTENDEES:

Head Teacher - Jennifer Duncan
Community Representative – Anne Kelly
Chair – Andrew Stogdale
Parent Representative – Philippa Booth
Staff Representative- Sian Lamb

OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerk –Megan Appleyard

1. Welcome + Introductions

2. Apologies

Parent Representative- Philippa Booth

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

Approved

4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

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

5. Head teachers report

JD explained the head teachers report in full detail and gave the key information as follows:

- The academy priority one areas are EYFS and maths.
- Using and applying is something the children struggle with.
- JD explained the importance of prioritising maths as much as communication skills.
- JD explained as Discovery are moving over to the new site, nursery may be based at the Brambles Farm Primary site, depending on what can be done at the new build site.
- Discovery have a consistent approach to phonics and reading and this is modified for the needs of the children.
- JD told the group that the M6 teacher who is tutoring and mentoring children is working well.
- Discovery's therapies have increased and now include visits from therapy dogs, children going swimming and in the new term pupils will be attending horse riding.
- JD informed the group that we currently have 4 pending EHCP's for Discovery's Nursery children
- JD then went onto explain the funding for our children. Redcar and Cleveland council have only funded children at range 5. AS asked if this could be expanded. JD has recently been in touch with the LA, and they have retracted only allowing range 5 and will allow further funding. JD stated that Discovery will be reviewing the Redcar children.

- JD explained what IDACI is (income deprivation affecting children income), it has shown that 55% of children in Discovery were in the 1st decile, which is the most deprived.
- JD informed the group that there have been recent studies with EAL children with SEND showing that the range of strategies used to support EAL are also used for pupils with severe learning, therefore, EAL pupils are well supported
- JD told the group that 2 members of staff from Discovery will be trained in the early bird programme. This will be to offer support and advice to the families.
- Discovery's attendance is nationally higher than expected. Lockdown has had an impact on the children and many of the children are out of routine.
- The website and safeguarding are all compliant.
- Discovery are currently within budget.

JD asked the group whether they are happy with the report and if they find this information useful to go through in the LAC meetings. AS liked the head teacher report being used and that it paints a picture of Discovery and what is going on within the Academy, the group also agreed with this statement.

AK asked if we have always been a part of the trust to which JD explained where Discovery had come from and how the academy had started.

Although Discovery are part of the Tees Valley Trust JD ensured the group that anything can be put on the agenda.

6. Debt Management and Refund Policy

AS asked how responsive Discovery are with dinner money.

JD explained that Discovery have a member of the office team who keeps track of dinner money and will not allow our parents to get into any sort of debt.

JD told the group there is a set amount of £10.25 a week for families to have a school dinner. AS brought attention to how Discovery would keep track of Secondary pupil's dinner money as Secondary pupils often use an alternative means of paying. This is something Discovery need to look into. JD to have conversation with Discovery's Business Manager.

JD explained that regular trips are always a voluntary contribution, but the trips can be cancelled if there are not enough contributions. If the children begin to go on residential then the money will need to be paid.

JD asked the group how they feel about the policies.

AS said to the group, while these can be sensitive policies, they had been written to support families.

7. Update on planning New Build (Verbal)

JD informed the group that all is going well with the new build. JD has asked Paul for some more photos.

The secondary is a new project with the Local Authority.

8. Secondary development and Consultation Update (Verbal)

JD Informed the group that Discovery have now been approved for a Secondary School Status.

AK asked where the Secondary school would be to which JD explained it would be on the Natures World site and told AK where the building work is being proposed.

JD mentioned to AK that she would like to have possible links with the businesses already on the Natures World site for example the café.

AK told the group that there is a possibility of a start-up farm going ahead at the site. The contact for this is Catherine Howell.

JD described to the group how she would like all the communities within the site to come together.

AS asked the timescale on the secondary school development. JD explained that the full completion would be phased over 3 years, although they are looking to bring this timescale down.

JD explained that the council are looking into taking over premier modular lease for the temporary secondary school. Children are to start Secondary Y7 from September 2022.

9 Any other business

AK mentioned they now have a wood chipper machine at the community garden which can be used.

JD informed AK that Teesside Family Foundation could have some possible involvement with the community garden.

AK told JD that Friends of Nature's World would like Discovery to keep the rare and wild plants in the garden, to which JD agreed.

AK told the group they are dealing with some vandalism in the area.

AS told JD that he has some opportunities for art work for the new build to which JD agreed and AS also may have a contact to help with a start-up farm too.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

TBC