



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(Company No: 09630999)

LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Monday 17th October 2022 09:30am

Face to face meeting

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(Company No: 09630999)
LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
Monday 17TH October 2022 9:30am
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

No apologies

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. Headteachers report

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

- Discovery are now in the fifth year of opening and an Ofsted inspection is due to come to school
- Discovery are still operating over two sites as the school is now in on the new site and Nursery and Year 7 are on the Brambles site. Brambles units have been successfully handed over to Middlesbrough Council.
- Although Middlesbrough council have control of the unit, premier modular are still taking care of them.
- The Senior Leadership team split their time between sites and there is always someone there who is safeguarding trained. This is still causing pressures as Discovery is over on two sites.
- Discovery have appointed a new member of the pastoral team.
- Secondary set up and attendance are the academy's current priority 1 areas, and English and Maths are priority 2
- The year 7 and 8 curriculum are in place and the curriculum development has begun for year 9 onwards when the focus will move to employment, careers and accreditations
- JD went on to explain attendance, last year Discovery attendance was above national average for special schools at 91.4%.
- Discovery would like the attendance to be higher this year and this is a priority 1 area

- Discovery would like persistent absences to come down, this is currently 32%
- AK asked what persistent absence means, JD explained that this is when a child's attendance drops below 90%
- The Tees Valley Trust has new strategies in place to help with improving attendance
- Regular letters and a texting service will be coming into place to help improve attendance
- In terms of curriculum, JD explained that communication is included in the reading curriculum
- Discovery curriculum is personalised
- All of Discovery's English curriculum feeds in with phonics
- Discovery had a good turn out with their Easter and Summer Clubs this year
- These will run again this academic year
- Discovery are still working with Middlesbrough Football Club
- Some nursery children and an international student arrival are still awaiting on an EHCP
- At the moment, Discovery only have capacity within their Year 5/6 classes
- Discovery are getting 3-5 referrals a week from this September
- In other years, we are at full capacity
- JD explained what IDACI means- this is the deprivation index report
- This shows that 55% of Discovery children are living in the top 10% deprivation area
- 59%-60% of Discovery students are pupil premium
- 52% of students are either supported with social care or are Academy Family Support
- The pastoral team are trying to push for some families to have Disability Social Workers, this tends to be pushed back to the short break teams
- PB has heard amongst other parents, that there is a long wait for this.
- PB accesses Daisy Chain and explained there is also a waiting list for this service too
- SL to look into having a refresher with Daisy Chain at one of our coffee mornings
- PB also explained that there is the Sunflower that is running a challenging behaviour course to help families
- JD explained that the SENCO Network Meetings and the SEND mentor meetings are still running
- In terms of finance, although Discovery has gone through the move, Discovery are still in budget
- The sensory rooms and the fencing around the perimeter have had to come out of this year's budget due to the delays
- During half term, contractors will be on site putting covers over the fire alarms
- Over on the Brambles site, contractors are looking at putting some changing rooms and toilet suits in for the Year 7's

6. Community Garden

- The caretakers are going to be building a fence round the community garden over the next half term
- JD explained that the Teesside Family Foundation are providing the wood
- JD explained to the group where the allotments are
- AK has spoken to Gaminli and have got their feedback, they had no objections
- AK explained that there is a water point further up, they had been conversations that we could have connections to our community garden. MA to let CT and GB know to look into this
- Discovery are working with Priory Woods for their older students to do some work experience on the community garden. Discovery are hoping to work with Beverly too

- Priory Woods students will begin work experience in the library after half term.

7. Secondary development and consultation update (verbal)

- In terms of secondary development, Discovery are getting closer to a potential site
- It is hoped this will be around the Sandy Flatts Lane site
- The proposals are going to the management board in December, then this will progress to the executive board, dependent of the management boards decision

8. Any Other Business

- AK told the group, with the security company in place and the new fence up around Discovery, there should be less vandalism
- PB told the group that Daisy Chain has sensory Sundays, in which the tickets always go live for on Monday night at 7pm. SL and MA to let parents know about this.

Date of Next Meeting

TBC