



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION – MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(Company No: 09630999)

LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Thursday 16 March 2023 2:30pm

Face to face meeting

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(Company No: 09630999)
LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE – DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
Thursday 16 March 2023 2:30pm
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

Staff Representative- Sian Lamb

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:

- JD began the meeting by informing the group that Ofsted had been into school and completed their inspection
- Discovery received 'Good' in their ofsted rating
- Discovery has been successful in their recruitment and only one member of staff in on long term supply.
- An internal candidate was successful for the post of Deputy Headteacher- this will be a September start.
- JD informed the group that AW the school's Safeguarding, SEND and Inclusion manager has moved on.
- The role will not be replaced however members of the pastoral team have gained some more responsibilities.
- The Deputy Headteacher will eventually take on the SENDCO role within school and will also gain some of the responsibilities.
- The school's current priority 1 is the Secondary development
- The current Year 7's have settled very well and at the moment are still in the modular buildings on the Discovery Brambles Farm site.
- There is currently an Assistant Headteacher at the Secondary site and the plan is for him to stay with the secondary
- In September there will also be a Y8 cohort

- Year 7 are on track to achieve or exceed their targets
- Attendance is also a number 1 priority and is something the academy is always working on
- JD explained parents communicate well with the academy and have improved knowledge of the impact of not attending school
- JD informed the group that the wider curriculum within the academy is developing on a whole all the time
- The academy has a wider diversity for example library books are in dual languages
- Discovery are starting to have wider links within the community and are starting enrichments
- An after-school cooking club has started and seems to be a success
- Year 7 have started working with Power of Woman
- AS explained to the group what Power of Woman is- Power of Women is a campaign to provide role models and inspirations
- PB mentioned it would be good for the children at Discovery to have a role model possibly come into school that have similar traits to our children
- JD went on to give some context on the school
- There is currently 126 pupils on roll
- 60% of Discovery's children are on Free Schools Meals/Pupil Premium
- No suspensions or exclusions
- Discovery are going to have a possible link with Morrison's to provide food hampers
- JD is wanting to build a relationship with MEC (Middlesbrough Environment City) for their cooking club
- AK suggested that contacting them via the school's Facebook page may be a quicker way of contact
- Discovery have been having the NHS Eye test team into school weekly to provide eye tests, this has been a success

6. Community Garden

- AK asked JD if GB (Year 7 teacher) would still like to bring the Year 7's to Nature's World
- JD explained this is something they would still like the Year 7's to do and will have GB get back in touch with AK
- AK asked if it was okay that a fellow colleague could have some of the spare wood and concrete which is around the back of the academy
- JD told AK that some of the wood is going to be used by our caretaker however what ever is left can be taken
- JD disagreed with taking the concrete as this is being used for the Academy
- AK went on to tell the group there will be a new grass space at Nature's World
- JD was happy about this and agreed this would be something Discovery can use
- JD mentioned to the group, Discovery could possibly start working with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust planting trees around the site

7. Secondary development and consultation update (verbal)

- In terms of secondary development, JD confirmed the Secondary building is still at the feasibility stage
- JD explained to the group that they need to be mindful on the car parking space

- Discovery also need to be mindful that the DFE do not want anything diminishing on the Primary site, meaning if any Primary space is used during the build for the secondary this will need to be replaced
- There is a possible area for the Secondary building on the boundaries of the Primary Academy area
- JD stated Discovery would like to be sensitive to the site ie the nature/wildlife
- AS asked JD what the space was like in the current temporary build for the Secondary
- JD ensured the group the current Year 7's have space and the temporary building will have space for the next two years
- JD told the group that Discovery will be getting a project manager
- The secondary building may be modular buildings (due to cost and speed)

8. Nursery development and consultation update

- The development of the Nursery is currently still in planning stages
- The application for the Nursery building will not go in with the council until May
- Nursery will be a modular building towards the back of our Primary building
- AK asked what ages our nursery children are to which JD explained these are children aged 3 and 4 currently

9. Any Other Business

- No other business

Date of Next Meeting

TBC