

**Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
Friday 9th December 2022 at 1:00 pm
Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA**

Those Present:		
Warren Carratt	Nexus MAT CEO – Acting Chair	CEO
Luci Windle	Executive Headteacher, Harlow Academy	LW
Julie Bullock	Staff Governor - Teaching	JB
Sacha Schofield	Chair – observing	SS
Rachel Mendham	Parent Governor	RM
Jill Norman	Governor	JN
Also Present:		
Vicky Hawksley	Governors Clerk	VH
Chris Evans	Deputy Head	CE
Apologies:		
Nick Parr	Parent Governor	NP
Jacky Tattershall	Governor	JT
Joanne Hook	Staff Governor – Non Teaching	JH
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from: NP, JT and JH.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from NP, JT and JH	
1.3. Confirmation of Vice-Chair RM was nominated and seconded as Vice-Chair of the Academy Council.	
2. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS	
2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s) Fountainsdale uses Positive Pants to nominate staff for recognition. This is done every Friday by LW and future nominations will be shared with the Academy Council for information. Agreed this item should be removed from future agendas.	<p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p> <p>ACTION: CLERK 24/03/23</p>
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Chair to determine any items of urgent business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on road signage (CEO) • Whatsapp group update 	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda JB to step out of the meeting for item 6.4.	
5. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
5.1 Approval of the Transition Board meeting held on 11 th July 2022 The minutes were approved.	
5.2 Review of Action Tracker Actions were reviewed and the action tracker updated. All actions completed.	
5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes None raised.	
6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
6.1 Headteacher Report	

LW explained the main points from the report which had been circulated in advance, and provided the following update:

- The school is still operating with lower numbers of pupils than expected but we will be back to 77 pupils from January 2023. We are working with families to ensure that they know whether they are eligible for Pupil Premium funding or not.
- Leadership and Management – we are moving towards subject leaders and middle leaders who will take responsibility and be accountable for specific areas. English, Maths and Science are our main core subjects plus the 6 areas listed in the report. We are appointing subject leaders in all areas and this has worked well so far.
- There has been an increase in pupil voice, via the Pupil Parliament. We now have three senior leaders leading groups in sensory, communication and outdoor activities and they meet half-termly to drive forward change in these areas.
- Sickness absence – this has been very high across school historically, mainly due to weak leadership in the past. We are slowly beginning to change the culture around sickness absence but this is a challenging process. We currently have 2 staff who are stage 2 of the process and around 13 staff who are on stage 1 off the process. LW acknowledged that a cultural change is required in this area.

SS asked how staff have responded to these changes? LW explained that some staff have had historically poor attendance and there is a lack of understanding amongst some staff about the consequences of frequent sickness absence. There is now a clear process in place and staff have been reminded about the trigger points in this process.

CEO noted that the Workforce Turnover table has not been completed. LW to action this. There have been very few leavers since September. School has two new teachers joining, one who is returning to work at the school and one joining from mainstream provision.

- Quality of education – a lot of work is being done to develop the new curriculum which stems from Cornerstones. LW is really pleased with this as it works for pupils and teachers can see the benefits of this already. Subject leaders are taking a lead on and embracing this new curriculum.
- School is part of the Notts County Council (NCC) Curriculum Network and school has learned lots from other schools. Teachers have adapted the curriculum for all children and pre-formal learning classes are excellent.
- Pupil engagement – teachers look for the lowest ability children as a way of checking engagement. School has moved children forward considerably in terms of their engagement and there are no concerns in this area.
- Data – teachers are just starting to compile data and work is still needed on this.

The data in the report does not show any progress data. How have you baselined this to get onto the pathways? Teachers have baselined in terms of the whole child and pathways are now clear for all children.

- Behaviour and attitudes – behaviour is good, very few children are causing concern and these generally occur within the autistic cohort and younger age groups.
- There have been no exclusions or suspensions.
- Attendance is good considering the complex health needs of children. There have been a lot of children frequently having hospital stays this year and there have been lots of hospital appointments as well. On the whole children attend well considering

**ACTION:
LW
24/03/23**

<p>their needs and vulnerabilities. There are robust procedures in place for following up on absences.</p> <p>CEO asked for a breakdown of the medical needs of our children for the next meeting, as a subset of the overall attendance data. LW to action.</p> <p>LW has offered families the opportunity to have their child’s medical appointments in school but this has been challenging.</p> <p>CEO requested a column on national average be included on the attendance data (tables 4 and 5) for the next meeting. LW to action. LW to also provide data from other comparative schools, such as Hilltop and Kelford.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Development – school held a coffee morning to go through all the RSE materials with parents and sent out information on Seesaw which is the platform for communicating with parents. • Work is underway for accredited pathways for those children who are able to pursue these options. <p>Where do most students go to when they leave this school? LW explained that often choices are limited but Portland College is the main option for children but the entry criteria is quite high and many of Fountainsdale’s pupils do not meet this standard.</p> <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP – for information.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF – for information.</p> <p>CEO asked if gradings of areas had been deliberately omitted from the SEF? LW said yes, she would normally include these but the decision was taken that this was not the right time to do this as more evidence is needed. The monitoring visit that Ofsted undertook was ungraded so the current Inadequate grading from the last inspection has not been changed (even though it doesn’t apply to the school as it opened as a new school upon joining Nexus), though the school would expect to be graded as RI now.</p> <p>SS asked if the school would be confident in calling in Ofsted to try and get a better grade than Inadequate, or would they prefer to wait? LW unsure at the moment as it would be difficult to ascertain what benefit this would have at this stage. It was noted that Fountainsdale is now a brand-new school and as such does not currently have an Ofsted grade and it is hoped that this would not deter prospective parents from sending their children here.</p>	<p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p>
<p>6.2 Community Voice Report</p> <p>Family Voice – school sends daily messages to parents via Seesaw, school Twitter account and via coffee mornings which are held every half-term.</p> <p>Annual reviews are well attended, and the Christmas FYRE raised almost £3k. It was very busy and lots of former students came back.</p> <p>Pupils have their own café in school on a Wednesday and they also have work experience opportunities in other schools. Lots of other pupils from Nexus schools visit Fountainsdale to take part in activities and sporting/PE sessions. These are always</p>	

<p>positively received by the children and the children plan and lead these sessions themselves.</p> <p>School has been recommended for an award by the Youth Sport Trust.</p> <p>Workforce Wellbeing – a lot of work is being done around supporting staff such as the Positive Pants initiative, menopause support etc and school is due to have a staff wellbeing check in the New Year. Staff are gaining in confidence and coming forward to raise issues and concerns early and openly</p> <p>Community Engagement – one carer has donated £500 and the local Masons group has also donated £500. School has been invited to one of their events to talk about school life.</p> <p>The School Fund account is extremely healthy and stands at £30k plus an inheritance of £213k which could be used to fund capital projects such as upgrading the pool area, fixing hoists and improving the post-16 area.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>Circulated with Academy Council for information and transparency.</p> <p>CEO explained that the LA have taken the view that Fountainsdale has been over-funded in the past. The LA has received an uplift in high needs funding but the CEO has been advised that the LA are seeking to dis-apply this from Fountainsdale, despite the DfE expecting all special schools to get a 3% uplift in funding. Nexus will challenge this dis-application if/when it is sight, given the school is inadequate and has a forecast deficit due to insufficient funding. LW has requested re-banding for 31 pupils who are in the wrong funding band, 28 of whom needed to be uplifted to the next band. This is an ongoing situation and governors will be kept updated.</p>	
<p>6.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal outcome report</p> <p>Teacher pay award – no questions raised and this was signed off by the CEO.</p>	
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust verbal update on key issues</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on road signage – the CEO noted that the road signs still say Harlow Academy. LW explained that these were put up 6 weeks prior to the last Ofsted visit. School has requested that these be changed in the summer and this has not yet been done. LW to chase up with the LA and update parents and governors accordingly. WhatsApp Group – RM gave an update on this group which is for information sharing for parents and families and is managed and administered by RM. We have four new families joining the school in January. RM to invite them to the group. 	<p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p>

<p>RM noted that overall parents have few complaints and are much more confident in asking questions and raising any issues. It was agreed that LW would include information on this group in the newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proxy for JH – CEO requested that a member of non-teaching staff be invited to act as proxy on the Academy Council during the absence of JH due to sickness. LW to action. • LW to provide possible dates for the Academy Council to visit the school and to seek additional members to join the Academy Council. 	<p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 24/03/23</p>
<p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK</p>	
<p>9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p>	

Friday 24 th March 2023	13:00 – 15:00	Academy Council
Friday 7 th July 2023	13:00 – 15:00	Academy Council

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
W. Carratt		09/12/22