



**Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
Friday 24th March 2023 at 1:00 pm
Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA**

Those Present:		
Sacha Schofield	Chair	SS
Luci Windle	Executive Headteacher, Fountaindale Academy	LW
Julie Bullock	Staff Governor – Teaching – via Teams	JB
Nick Parr	Parent Governor	NP
Michelle Carr	Observer	MC
Robert Briggs	Observer	RB
Also Present:		
Vicky Hawksley	Governors Clerk	VH
Chris Evans	Deputy Head	CE
Jacky Tattershall	Officer	JT
Apologies:		
Rachel Mendham	Parent Governor	RM
Gayle Bowmer	Observer	GB
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from: RM, GB.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from RM, GB.</p>	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
<p>2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s)</p> <p>Positive Pants – LW explained that this will be used as an alternative to the Best We Can Be Awards. Staff nominate other anonymously during the week and Positive Pants awards are presented to staff each week. Details of the awards presented this week were circulated with the meeting papers.</p>	
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered Chair to determine any items of urgent business.</p> <p>None raised.</p> <p>3.2 Confirmation of new governors – Michelle Carr and Robert Briggs, Non-Teacher Governor – Gayle Bowmer.</p> <p>All new governors were confirmed and warmly welcomed onto the Academy Council.</p>	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda.</p> <p>None to declare.</p>	
5. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
<p>5.1 Approval of the Transition Board meeting held on 9th December 2022</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>Actions were reviewed and the action tracker updated. All actions completed and one action deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes.</p> <p>None raised.</p>	

6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>Report circulated in advance.</p> <p>LW explained that numbers on roll are lower than expected – we currently have places for 81 children but currently have 75 on roll with 3 starting transition this week so 78 in total. In September the number will rise to 82.</p> <p>LW reported that there are still some legacy issues being raised by parents when they visit the school, and these concerns will take time to subside. The school has recently won a national Youth Sport Award and it is hoped that this will help to counter some of the historical concerns parents have. The next Ofsted inspection of the school will also help to shift the perception of the school.</p> <p>The school has a spare classroom available, and this would allow us to take more students, although we would need to recruit additional staff to teach in this area.</p> <p>We are also considering developing the old residential area for our post-16 provision. Plans are being developed to extend this area which would free up more space in the main building.</p> <p>LW referred to the school’s 6 Big Ideas on which the curriculum is build and each idea has a subject leader attached to it. Development of subject leaders has been strengthened and all have had a support and challenge meeting.</p> <p>IGaze Ipads have been purchased and software is being uploaded to these devices which will be used as a curriculum resource.</p> <p>Fifteen staff have completed our Awareness in First Aid in Mental Health at Level 1 and we have a member of staff who is qualified to train up to level 3.</p> <p>Are all levels of staff appraisals completed? Yes, and we are about to start mid-term appraisals. Generally, staff value this process as part of their professional development.</p> <p>In terms of the previous academy, is there any sign of any money being returned to Fountainsdale from the previous academy? LW expects that there will some recompense but we have no indication of how much this will be as the accounts are still being scrutinised and unpicked.</p> <p>In time, could the holiday clubs be paid through short breaks? Nexus offer an extended school service and we could investigate doing something similar.</p> <p>Could we compile a list of parents who are interested in looking for someone to provide care outside of school hours? Yes, Extended Schools could assist with this and work in conjunction with the Local Authority. LW to follow this up with Extended Schools.</p> <p>Data – LW is not yet confident with the data coming from the data systems as this will take an academic year to run through the system.</p>	<p>ACTION: LW 07/07/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 07/07/23</p>

Behaviour and Attitudes – LW explained that the school does not exclude children but noted that we do have some children who display challenging behaviours but staff are confident in dealing with these incidents.

In the Community Voice report it states that there are a few staff who feel that behaviour is not well managed in the school? Is this part of the training that staff are undergoing on de-escalation? Yes, the reason is a lack of understanding of how to de-escalate a situation for a specific child. Staff need to have an understanding of each individual child’s needs. We also need to work with staff on understanding trauma for our children and how to deal with this effectively.

The vast majority of incidents are as a result of a child’s needs not being met and frustration at their own limitations.

What is the long-term strategy for Nexus relating to Fountaindale? Is there a long-term plan to develop the school’s space further? LW explained that there is an opportunity for an add-on unit to be installed and we are in discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council about this.

Personal Development – we are now working closely with Portland College and have met with the Principal to discuss collaboration. Portland have offered to host a team building day for our staff and some of our students have visited the college and taken part in bushcraft, woodland walks, forest school activities etc.

Hydrotherapy – why are the NHS health team not delivering this service? The area was closed during Covid and has not reopened because the staff involved needed to be retrained to regain their competencies. We have no indication of when this might happen. We do offer a warm water swim for our students and staff but this is very time consuming for staff, particularly where students need to be hoisted into the pool.

Could there be an opportunity for volunteers to assist with some of the tasks related to this, such as acting as a spotter in the area? LW noted that some staff were very anxious about returning to this area but we will consider ways forward for the future.

Could we get a sponsor for this area? We are currently looking into this as a possible option.

The costs of running the hydrotherapy area are significant but some children have this as a requirement on their EHCP so we have to provide this in some way.

6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP – for information.

6.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF – for information.

6.2 Community Voice Report

Report circulated in advance. The main points to note are:

- Parent questionnaire – this was sent out in February but only 7 responses were received, all of which were very positive about the school.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil work in the community – post-16 pupils have been doing work experience in the school and some are doing work experience at Beech and Abbey. • Enrichment – all teachers and TAs have undergone training on the web-based system of Risk Assessments. • We are using Portland College to give students the opportunity to get out into the community and take part in problem solving activities etc. • A staff wellbeing team has been created; Secret Friends is starting along with a menopause support group. • Staff Survey – results of the February survey are in the report – variable response to questions and only 46 out of 75 staff responded. There was a positive picture overall and progress is being made in changing the culture across the school. • The School Fund account remains healthy. • Car Boot Sale to take place on 1st July – further information to follow. <p>School Photos – parents have requested that school photos are reinstated in some form – could this be done? LW agreed to conduct a poll amongst parents to ascertain their views on this.</p>	<p>ACTION: CE 07/07/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 07/07/23</p>
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>For information.</p>	
<p>6.4 School Calendar – for Information</p> <p>For information.</p>	
<p>6.5 Cabinet Member and MPs’ Feedback from Pupil Parliament – Verbal</p> <p>Will be deferred to the next meeting. Some of our children will join the start of the meeting next time.</p>	<p>ACTION: CLERKING SERVICES 07/07/23</p>
<p>6.6 Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment – Verbal</p> <p>The audit document has been sent out to governors with a completion date of 31st March, responses will then be analysed and outcomes published.</p>	
7. TRUST MATTERS	
<p>7.1 Trust verbal update on key issues</p> <p>JT reported that CE is involved with the Staff Parliament and there will be another meeting of this group next week.</p> <p>Pupil Parliament have requested that a Trust-wide sporting event is organised on 25th April via the Youth Sport Trust. We have booked the EIS for this and students from all schools will be invited to attend.</p> <p>The Trust is currently considering organising Proms and whether there will be a Trust-wide proms and also individual school proms.</p>	

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>Link Governors – LW explained that the school requires more governors for community links and invited governors to express an interest in particular areas they would like to be involved in.</p> <p>Governors are invited to email LW with Expressions of Interest and will then be put in contact with the appropriate member of staff. LW to send governors a list of the typical link governor roles available but stressed that other areas not on the list could also be of interest.</p> <p>LW explained her intention to have a practical meeting each term with governors so that staff and leaders can present to governors, training can be undertaken along with visits to school etc. LW to provide possible dates for these meetings which would take place at the end of each term.</p>	<p>ACTION: GOVERNORS & LW 07/07/23</p> <p>ACTION: LW 07/07/23</p>
9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK	
<p>9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 – Confidential item</p>	
10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	

Friday 7 th July 2023	13:00 – 15:00	Academy Council
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE