



**Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
 Thursday 5 December 2024 at 10:00am
 Fountaindale School, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 5BA**

Those Present:	Role	Initials
Gayle Bowmer	Deputy Safeguarding Lead Staff Governor (Support)	GB
Julie Bullock	Staff Governor - Teaching	JB
Chris Evans	Headteacher	CE
Rachel Mendham	Parent Governor	RM
Sacha Schofield	Chair	Chair
Paula Williams	Officer	PW
Also Present:		
Rebecca Horne	Governance Clerk	RH
Jacky Tattershall	Governor	JT
Apologies:		
None received		
No Apologies		
Michelle Carr	Governor	MC
Nick Parr	Parent Governor	NP

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
1.1. To receive apologies for absence None received.	
1.2. To accept apologies for absence None.	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
2.1 Best We Can Be Awards CE explained the school did their own version called 'Positive Pants' The decision-making process involved staff voting on whether to continue or stop the initiative. The results of the vote were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52% of staff voted to stop the initiative. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48% of staff voted to continue it. <p>Despite the close results, the decision was made to stop the 'Positive Pants' program.</p> <p>Best We Can Be Awards will stay on the agenda.</p>	
<p>3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>3.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered</p> <p>CE explained the school had to close for one day recently due to snow. This decision, although late, was unavoidable because the absence of medically trained staff on-site made it unsafe to remain open. Arrow, the school's transport service, independently decided not to operate and did not inform the school.</p> <p>It was decided, if in doubt, make the call to close the school in future.</p> <p>This issue will be picked up with Arrow transport in the future. No further action is required at this moment.</p> <p>3.2 Confirmation of Resignation – Robert Briggs, Parent Governor (WAS HE A PARENT GOV?)</p> <p>The resignation of Robert Briggs was accepted by the Academy Council.</p>	
<p>4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p>	
<p>4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>5. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES</p>	
<p>5.1 To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the Academy council meeting held on 05 July 2024 were approved as a true record.</p>	
<p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes.</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</p>	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>The report indicates that the school currently has a PAN of 81 pupils with an allowance to exceed this number by up to 20%. Currently there are 95 children in the school.</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p>	

The planned conversion of the residential area of the school has faced delays due to the need to address a bat-related issue and obtain a Bat License, resulting in a revised timeline. Surveys and reports identified the presence of bats, a protected species, requiring the school to apply for a Bat License before proceeding. Building work is now expected to start in early December and will take approximately 16 weeks.

Sickness Absence Data

Sickness has unfortunately not improved within the school. 25 children have been off recently.

SS – Are these genuine illnesses? CE – Yes.

Workforce Turnover Data

CE reported the school is facing challenges in recruiting Curriculum Teaching Assistants (CTAs), despite conducting numerous interviews without success.

Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) have been given the opportunity to take on Curriculum Teaching Assistant (CTA) roles for a term.

Four staff members are currently enrolled in apprenticeship programs for Teaching Assistants, with two staff members on track to complete their Teaching Assistant apprenticeships in Spring 2025.

JB recently delivered a session for students at West Notts College. Plans are in place to host West Notts College students at Fountaindale for an information session in the New Year. The sessions will be organised in groups of 20

SS – Is staff wellbeing positive at the moment? GB – It is hard at the moment as there is a lot of sickness.

Quality of Education

CE explained a link has been established with the local hospital to provide eye clinics directly at the school. Offering clinics within the school reduces the need for families to travel or take time off work.

The HT report includes the results or outcomes of the last two QA cycles, providing an overview of recent assessments and evaluations. These QA reports are shared with all staff at the start of each half term.

CE explained Dan Machin has passed on information regarding the different curriculum. On the 30th January 2025 a Curriculum Development Information Session will take place for the Academy Council to look at the revised curriculum in more detail. **ACTION - AC Members to liaise with Dan Machin to look at the revised curriculum at the scheduled meeting and feedback at the Spring Academy Council Meeting.**

CE explained the swimming pool at the school is now operational and receiving positive feedback.

**AC
MEMBERS
27/03/25**

<p><u>Behaviour & Attitudes</u></p> <p>A member of the support staff team successfully completed a 5-day Team Teach Train the Trainer course in April 2024. The staff member who completed the course in April has already begun training other members of staff around the school.</p> <p>The Assistant Head will complete the same Train the Trainer course in January 2025. This will provide the school with two trained staff members to deliver Team Teach training within the school.</p> <p><u>Attendance Data</u></p> <p>Overall attendance is reported at 87.7%. This would be 92% if you take out absence for medical appointments.</p> <p><u>Personal Development</u></p> <p>CE explained weekly assemblies have been running this academic year with class teachers leading on these. The assemblies reflect celebrations and festivals with various topics covered. All so far have received a very positive response.</p> <p>The next event to take place at school is the Christmas Fayre on 07 December which will host around 20 stalls.</p> <p>A deep dive has taken place into the career’s curriculum in school. Several visitors have attended school including police, ambulance and construction. All so far have received a positive response.</p> <p><u>Community Voice Report</u></p> <p>CE mentioned, Seesaw is continuing to be the main communication between parents and school. this has received positive feedback.</p>	
<p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 School SEF</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.2 School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal Outcome Report</p> <p>This was circulated for information prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust verbal update on key issues</p>	

PW gave an update on Trust matters.

The CEO of the Trust is placing a high priority on the Academy Councils and actively engaging with them. The CEO plans to attend some of the pupil parliaments within the Academy Councils. The CEO will visit Fountaindale in March 2025.

The Trust has expanded to include two new special schools, one located in Nottingham and the other in Sheffield. Both schools have successfully completed the academisation transition, officially becoming part of the Trust.

Two more special schools in Sheffield have applied to join the Trust, with a potential start date of September 2025.

The CEO has taken steps to grow the Central Team. The Trust has significantly developed the ways in which it supports its schools over the past few years, ensuring tailored assistance to meet the needs of each institution. Members of schools have expressed positive feedback about the quality and impact of the support they receive.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

8.1 To consider any other urgent business

The Christmas dinner at the school is scheduled for 19 December, Staff who wish to attend the Christmas dinner should notify CE as soon as possible.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK

9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.

None.

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 March 2024	10:00 – 12:00	Fountaindale Academy
Thursday 3 July	10:00 – 12:00	Fountaindale Academy

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
Sacha Schofield		