



**Fountaindale School Academy Council Meeting
Friday 8 December 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	JB
Michelle Carr	Governor via Teams	MC
Robert Briggs	Governor	RB
Also Present:		
Lyndsay Foster	Governors Clerk	LF
Jacky Tattershall	Officer – via Teams	JT
Apologies:		
Christopher Evans	Head of School	CE
Nick Parr	Parent Governor	NP
Gayle Bowmer	Staff Governor (Support)	GB
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies received for CE, NP and GB.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies accepted for CE, NP and GB.</p>	
<p>1.3. Confirmation of Vice Chair</p> <p>The Academy council discussed the need for a vice-chair.</p>	
2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS	
<p>2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s)</p> <p>Agreed to be taken off agenda.</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.</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.</p>	
5. FOUNTAINDALE ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES	
<p>5.1 To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the Academy council meeting held on 7 July 2023 were approved as a true record with no amendments.</p>	
<p>5.2 Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>Action tracker reviewed, discussed and updated. Action: Clerking services to distribute UNICEF report sent today by JB.</p>	<p>CLERKING SERVICES COMPLETED 11/12/23</p>
<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes.</p> <p>None.</p>	
6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>The meeting involved a discussion on the Headteacher Report, which had been distributed in advance. LW shared that changes were set to take effect in January, with CE assuming the role of Headteacher. No transition was deemed necessary as CE is already overseeing day-to-day operations within the school. Additionally, there was anticipation for a new Assistant Head, expected around the Easter term, who brings a background in Autism and Challenging Behaviours.</p>	

LW addressed the issue of pupil premium and the collaborative efforts with families, noting that the figures are still low.

Ssc inquired about connecting with Governors, and LW suggested waiting until CE can attend the next meeting before proceeding.

LW provided an update on staff sickness, noting improvement and more stability. There are instances of long-term sickness absence, and one staff member is leaving due to ill health. Additionally, some staff have been lost due to term-time-only contracts.

Ssc expressed a concern not necessarily tied to Fountaindale in general but about the increasing nature of invasive medical procedures that staff are being asked to perform.

LW confirmed that there is collaborative work in the area with other schools involving occupational therapists (OT) and physiotherapists. There is a continuous exchange between the school and the hospital, but there is no longer a school nurse.

RM shared insights into how the school and other agencies used to collaborate, making it easier for parents and reducing disruptions with half-day appointments.

LW informed that they have monthly reviews with the NHS, consistently highlighting the convenience and effectiveness of running certain procedures within the school.

RB mentioned that in Nottingham, there's strategic collaboration between the local authority and health partners for service delivery. This collaboration is seen as a positive step in breaking down barriers between services.

Ssc inquired about the presence of school nurses within the school?

LW confirmed that the nurses are no longer in the school, and the service has been withdrawn.

RM explained that hospital visits pose challenges, especially with arranging escorts for lifting and transportation. Additionally, there are instances where parents prefer to have private conversations with consultants without the child present. Having appointments in school would be more convenient, and the support staff are valuable in such situations.

Ssc added that having appointments in school not only aids attendance but also provides familiarity for the children, as they are in a more comfortable environment with familiar faces.

ACTION: RB stated he would take this feedback with him and the parental and child journey and see if they can reintroduce back into schools.

LW shared that CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) is the only agency without a strong close working relationship.

MC added that the issue also involves child trauma, as some children become anxious after hospital procedures. In contrast, in the familiar school setting, the children tend to be calmer.

LW mentioned efforts to work with the hospital to consolidate all children under the same consultant, aiming to better support the families involved.

RB
22/03/24

LW talked about the quality of education and the monitoring procedures in place at the school. LW also mentioned the positive impact of a new Post-16 tutor who has started and is doing an excellent job, leading to improved transitions for the children.

LW brought up the "teacher on a page" document, explaining that staff are self-assessing against teacher standards. However, LW noted that many staff members tend to undersell themselves.

JB expressed appreciation for the self-reflection process, highlighting the importance of staff being able to make professional decisions and judgments about their own performance.

SSc inquired about the Alternate provision and whether it is explicitly mentioned in the child's EHCP.

LW confirmed that currently, it is not specified, and there is a need to determine whether it should be included or excluded from the EHCP.

SSc discussed the importance of having it written into the EHCP for proper coding by the school. Additionally, having the provision stated in the plan helps with funding coverage, preventing costs from falling onto the parents, especially if it falls under a medical need

LW discussed efforts in behaviour management and data analysis. JB mentioned that behaviours specified in the EHCP are considered typical for the child. Any new or prolonged behaviours not in the EHCP are tracked and addressed as concerns.

RM inquired about how behaviours are documented?

LW confirmed that they go through annual reviews, examining data analysis and behaviours of concern to understand if there is an escalation and identify the causes. A recent development day included a well-received session by a staff member from Discovery.

The school is delving into trauma research with the University and a Musical Therapy Professor, an expert in trauma and profound learning difficulty children. This professional is affiliated with the hospital, and their insight is being explored as part of the school's initiatives.

LW also mentioned that attendance has been positive, particularly considering the challenges faced by parents.

LW discussed the report on Personal Development and the wider curriculum, highlighting the organisation of various events within the school. This approach is particularly helpful for families facing challenges in attending community events due to issues like access and transportation. The events calendar is consistently available online and is adaptable to accommodate parents as best as possible.

LW mentioned making changes to the medical team to bring procedures like feeding into the classroom. Training has been provided to staff to facilitate these changes.

RM expressed concern about Teaching Assistants (TAs) handling care and feeding tasks and inquired if they are stretched.

<p>LW reassured that with the additional staff, learning can still progress while care and feeding tasks are managed, allowing for quality time dedicated to learning.</p> <p>RM voiced concern about illnesses, particularly during the winter, and how they might affect staff, especially when already stretched.</p> <p>Ssc expressed that by training more staff, it would prevent issues when there's a shortage, as more people would be available to cover various areas and classes. Upskilling and training staff would ensure that procedures could still be offered within the classroom.</p> <p>LW confirmed these efforts, adding that they have also extended lunchtime by 30 minutes. This provides children with more time to socialize, and if personal care is needed, it's not rushed.</p> <p>Ssc expressed gratitude to LW for everything she has done for Fountainsdale, acknowledging her incredible leadership and upskilling efforts that have positioned the school and staff well.</p> <p>LW, in turn, thanked the trust for the opportunity.</p>	
<p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 Updated SIP</p> <p>LW gave a brief overview of report circulated.</p>	
<p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 School SEF</p> <p>LW gave brief overview of report circulated.</p>	
<p>6.2 School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>Report overview discussed and reviewed.</p>	
<p>6.3 Budget Report</p> <p>Budget report discussed and document circulated for information.</p>	
<p>6.4 Teaching staff appraisal outcome report</p> <p>Report discussed.</p>	
<p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trust verbal update on key issues</p> <p>On behalf of the trust and academy council, we want to express our gratitude to LW for her dedicated hard work and commitment to the school.</p>	
<p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>LW expressed her appreciation for the support she has received and asked the academy council to extend their support to CE, guiding and assisting him in his new role as the Head.</p>	

9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK	
9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting. None.	

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING	
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Friday 22 nd March 2024	13:00 – 15:00	Fountaindale Academy
Friday 5 th July 2024	13:00 – 15:00	Fountaindale Academy

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE