



Beech Academy Council
Thursday 14 December 2023 at 10.30 am
Beech Academy, Fairholme Site, Fairholme Drive, Mansfield
NG19 6AH

| Those Present: | | |
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| Neil Davies | Headteacher, Beech Academy | ND |
| Bev Cooper | Staff Governor – Non-teaching | BC |
| Kathryn Johnson | Staff Governor - Teaching | KJ |
| Lara De Celis | Parent Governor | LS |
| Sue Elliott | Community Governor | SE |
| Paula Williams | Executive Regional Director | PW |
| Sacha Schofield | Chair/Executive Regional Director | SS |
| Also Present: | | |
| Rebecca Horne | Governance Clerk | RH |
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| Apologies: None | | |

| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | Actions |
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| 1.1. To receive apologies for absence None. | |
| 1.2. To accept apologies for absence None. | |
| 1.3 Confirmation of Vice Chair SS – if anyone would like to become Vice Chair, please let her know. | ALL MEMBERS 22/03/24 |
| 2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS | |
| 2.1 Presentation to staff nominee(s) Four members of staff: AR, BC, JA and NH were presented with their Best We can Be Awards. ND read out the nominations and all nominees were celebrated and congratulated accordingly. | |
| 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 None. | |
| 4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS | |
| 4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda There were no declarations received. | |
| 5. BEECH ACADEMY LOCAL GOVERNANCE MINUTES | |
| 5.1 Approval of the Transition Board meeting held on 7 th July 2023. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. | |
| 5.2 Review of Action Tracker 6.1 T&L Playbook to be shared with AC members when completed. ND explained this will probably be worked on for this academic year. More updates will be available at the summer AC. 6.1 BC reported there have been a few time-tabling issues. This will be looked at in the New Year. | |
| 5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes None raised. | |

| 6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED | |
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| <p>6.1 Headteacher Report</p> <p>6.1.1 Appendix 1 – Updated SIP – for information.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appendix 2 – School SEF – for information.</p> <p>ND went through the report which was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It has been a positive start to the academic year and a lot of focus has been on embedding the plans that have been put in place last year.</p> <p>There has been a significant increase in pupil numbers from last academic year to this academic year. In spring of 2023 there were 91 pupils on roll. This has now increased to 106 pupils on roll across both sites at Fairholme and Westfield. There are potentially 2 in year applications in at the moment so this number may increase to 108.</p> <p>ND reported they are fully staffed with the exception of 1 Maths Teacher which is being covered by a supply teacher. The aim is to appoint by the Spring term.</p> <p><u>Leadership & Management</u></p> <p>ND explained there is a new DSL in school this term. ND has provided support and transition to the new DSL (Assistant Headteacher behaviour & attitudes). ND and MEH meet on a fortnightly basis to review the safeguarding position for the school. 1-1sessions also take place with Nexus colleagues on a half-termly basis.</p> <p>ND explained their catering provider changed in September and there has been an increase in numbers of children now having school meals.</p> <p>ND reported they have had some quotes for works improve the outside space on both sites. This will be a project for summer 2024.</p> <p>ND stated sickness absence this half term is low.</p> <p>SS – can you elaborate on the growth funding of the new students? ND, yes, myself and a colleague have worked closely together with the local authority and there is a new SEND and Improvement Advisor for the local authority who works with the Group Manager, Karen Human. They are responsible for supporting the school in achieving the growth funding. Confirmation has recently been received to assure growth funding is on its way to the school.</p> <p><u>Quality of Education</u></p> <p>ND reported huge work is on-going within the school and judging on the quality of education this is good. Testament has to go to Kate, Deputy Head and Lead of Quality of Education, but also the curriculum leaders who have done an enormous piece of work over the last 12-18 months re-developing the curriculum, mainly at KS3 level but also at KS4 level. DD explained they now have a clear staff CPD plan which is aligned to the school improvement plan.</p> | |

ND explained they had a quality assurance visit within the last 3-4 weeks from Joanne Cliff, Executive Assurance Partner. The report that was received was really positive around the quality assurance that is currently in place. The practice is really beginning to develop across both sites. There is continued focus and the need to further develop the practice of TA's and learning systems and this is an on-going piece of work.

ND explained progress outcomes from the pupils continues to be really strong. They had some fantastic results from KS4 and KS5 this summer.

ND praised Katie??? And the curriculum leaders for their outstanding work which has had a huge impact on the progress of the children and young people.

SS gave a personal thank you for all the hard work.

SS – would really like to see what the structure and paper work looks like? ND, yes this can be arranged in the New Year.

JW – in relation to the pre-75 curriculum, do you keep records on destination? ND, yes but not for a significant piece of time after the pupils leave. Work around next steps once pupils have left school will take place.

Pupil Absence

ND reported in terms of behaviour, the school is very settled. There are several reasons for this especially the curriculum and the staffing structure within the school. Classroom based support has also hugely helped.

Only 1 suspension has been reported which was an isolated incident.

ND explained they have 2 new cohorts of children, a Year 7 group at Fairholme with 10 pupils and a nurture one group at Westfield with 8 pupils.

ND reported they are using a small amount of alternative provision for some pupils who struggle to access school. This is combined with a small number of cases with a small number of people who are still accessing a reduced time-table.

ND reported that attendance is above average for a special school. Holiday absence isn't being authorised unless this is exceptional circumstances. Weekly attendance data is looked at to recognise any trends.

SS – pupils who are accessing reduce time-tables, are they accessing Beech Academy at all? ND, yes, every single child is accessing Beech Academy. An extreme example would be a pupil accesses Beech 3 days per week and 2 days per week on alternative provision.

PW explained regular reviews of these pupils does take place on a monthly basis.

Personal Development

ND reported personal development continues to be embedded over the course of the year. The children are doing really well and a recent school trip to the Palace Theatre proved successful with the majority of pupils attending. The Palace Theatre are going to

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| <p>look into putting on autism friendly performances for shows next year. This will enable two different groups of pupils to attend.</p> <p>SE stated the children were a huge credit to the school on the recent school trip.</p> <p>ND reported in terms of the curriculum the PSHE delivery is really strong. Credit was given to Georgia Baker, ECT at Beech Academy.</p> <p>ND reported the assemblies are growing in pupil participation.</p> <p>ND explained a supported internship programme is underway. A colleague from a local enterprise partnership is working alongside a member of staff to implement this program. There will be initially 4-6 pupils from the upper school that will be identified to participate in the internship.</p> <p>ND stated another great piece of work that has taken place is around further development of pupils taking on roles and responsibilities throughout the day. BC explained a number of job roles were advertised across both sites which allowed pupils to apply for the job and then be interviewed.</p> <p>BC explained the pupils were amazing and they advertised for the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning and end of day Assistant • Lunchtime Assistant • Reading Assistant • Apprentice Reading Assistant • Library Assistant <p>Pupils received formal letters of acceptance. Pupils then responded with their own thank you letter.</p> <p>ND stated they will be looking at how they can grow this next year. At the start of the academic year a 'Jobs Fair' may commence where the jobs are advertised in the hall.</p> <p><u>Community Voice</u></p> <p>PW reported this has been added to the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family voice – revisit this in the Spring term • Annual reviews – huge praise to Nicky? • Parent care literature sessions, these are a huge success. <p>PW – the feedback from parents, the lowest score is around how bullying is dealt with. What is the understanding of what bullying is? ND, will discuss further with Matt with what this actually means. ACTION – ND to speak to Matt.</p> | <p>ND 22/03/24</p> |
| <p>6.2 School Dashboard Summary</p> <p>PW discussed the school dashboard summary in more detail. Each term there is a moderation process at Central Trust to look at the self-evaluation dashboard that schools do. A few areas for Beech were rated insecure good. The board fed-back to JW</p> | |

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| and has now made this secure good. The dashboard summary for Beech is nearly all green, this is really positive. | |
| 6.3 Budget Report PW explained the budget report was circulated for information. ND reported the school had a slightly smaller surplus than hoped for. | |
| 6.4 Teaching Staff Appraisal Outcome No questions or comments were received. | |
| 7. TRUST MATTERS | |
| PW explained that the Central Trust has now moved into Enterprise Works, formally known as the Source at Meadowhall. With the Central Trust Team only occupying so much of the building, space will be opened up to create more KS5 capacity for Sheffield City Council through existing schools. In relation to Nottinghamshire, JW reported the Trust are looking to support the local authority around growth and in special provision. The local authority has been successful in a free school bid with the government. A new alternative provision school will open in Nottinghamshire along with another new special school. Nexus has been invited to bid or run either of these schools along with other trusts. | |
| 8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS | |
| 8.1. To consider any other urgent business. None. | |
| 9. CONFIDENTIALITY | |
| 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 | 10:30 – 12:30 | Beech Academy Council |
| Friday 5 th July 2024 | 10:30 - 12:30 | Beech Academy Council |

Minutes approved

| CHAIR | SIGNATURE | DATE |
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