



Heatherwood School Local Governing Body Quality of Education Meeting Thursday 5th May 2022 at 14:00 at Heatherwood School

Those Present:		
Gary Bullock	Parent Governor – Chair/T&L Link	GB
Lisa Suter	Executive Headteacher	LS
Bridget Coy	Head of School	BC
Fiona Kirkham	Co-opted Governor – T&L Link	FK
Mel Pidgeon	Parent Governor – Safeguarding Link	MP
Also Present:		
Barry-John Simmons	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Strategy & Partnerships (Via Teams)	JH
Daryl Bennett	Deputy Headteacher	DB
Suzanne Fulwood	Phase Leader	SF
Apologies:		
Jacky Tattershall	Assistant CEO – School Improvement	JT
Marc Bratcher	Co-opted Governor – Vice Chair/Wellbeing Link	MB
Anne-Marie O'Dell	Non-Teaching Governor	A-MO
No Apologies:		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Actions
<p>1.1. To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from JT / MB & A-MO.</p>	
<p>1.2. To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from JT / MB & A-MO.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business</p> <p>None.</p>	
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>3.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations received.</p>	
4. HEATHERWOOD SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MINUTES	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2022 were approved as a correct record with no amendments.</p>	
<p>4.2. Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The action tracker was reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>None.</p>	
5. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED	
<p>5.1. SIP Priorities – Deep Dive Review of Specific Curriculum Area(s)</p> <p>DB shared a presentation on the curriculum and began by mentioning the SWOT analysis they undertook and explained how they are currently part way through the curriculum implementation stage. DB detailed where the teachers are up to now and how the teaching profile is at least good and pupil achievements are also at least good. DB also explained the curriculum development evaluation and how staff were engaged to produce this.</p> <p>LS introduced SF and explained how her work on communication comes within the school improvement plan. SF shared a presentation on communication at Heatherwood discussing what it is and how it is the foundation of learning. SF went on to explain the total communication approach they adopt at Heatherwood and the various types of communication within this that they utilise. SF further discussed the Sensory and Active pathways and what they look for within these and how they have access to these in the various classes.</p>	

SF took governors on a communication learning walk, visiting different classrooms highlighting the variety of communication tools, pathways and practice being utilised.

MP gave really positive feedback after the learning walk and commented on how it was clear to see the staff knew the pupils very well and how great it was to see everyone had a voice.

MP asked how new staff are taught the skills to follow the communication pathways. LS explained that the induction process covers this for new staff. DB also mentioned ongoing CPD helps and detailed how they are looking at induction teams and mentors for staff from each class to also ensure consistency.

MP asked how new technology and new ideas are introduced. LS explained they adapt practice from research that becomes bespoke to Heatherwood and that they get staff to build new ideas from the ground up. DB explained the common thread of the personalisation of the curriculum across within the school.

FK asked if any other schools follow and access the curriculum similarly and whether they shared good practice with other schools. LS described how the research-based approach is adopted by other schools and confirmed they do share practice and collaborate across the Trust and gave the example of the partnership with North Ridge.

GB summarised the peer-to-peer session he had attended recently which involved leaders from elsewhere in the Trust, Rob Mulvey and Claire Rose, and mentioned how this also looked at communication and that the feedback he noted was very positive and he hoped they could progress even further. DB highlighted they always reflect and aim to improve on their success.

GB thanked SF and was very impressed with the format and paperwork for the learning walk and thought it was very useful and would be great to build on this format to explore other areas of the curriculum.

DB agreed they can do this in the next meeting within different areas of the curriculum.

5.2. Transition to Academy Council

GB described what he understood an Academy Council would involve.

JH explained how the Academy Council is a recommendation and gave an overview of what it involves to be an Academy Council. JH detailed how as an Academy Council the scrutiny would be taken to Trust level with the paid professionals covering areas such as quality assurance and safeguarding, so the governors within an Academy Council could focus on vision and values and continue to provide a strong community voice.

FK/GB/MP all agreed it made sense and agreed that they will discuss it further in a separate meeting together.

6. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

<p>6.1. Governors to complete Activity Log</p> <p>GB agreed to update and send the recent governor activity to clerkingservices@nexusmat.org for all governors. ACTION: GB</p>	<p>GB 23/06/22</p>
<p>6.2. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>JH mentioned that the Trust were successful in their drive to get the Schools Supplementary Grant top up funding from Doncaster, along with the other areas they operated in. JH then discussed the continued growth of Nexus explaining how Harlow and Beech Academy in North Nottinghamshire would be joining Nexus from September. JH also mentioned how the newly released government White Paper would encourage more maintained schools to join Trusts such as Nexus, which could also aid future growth of the Trust.</p>	
<p>7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>7.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair</p> <p>GB asked about getting Nathan Bingham in to discuss IT within Heatherwood.</p> <p>LS gave an update on staffing which included the news that Dan Machin was staying at Harlow permanently after his secondment. LS explained DB is looking to move from Full Time to Part Time work from September and how they would be advertising for an Assistant Headteacher to cover the discussed changes. LS also detailed how they had taken on a new teacher within the Post 16 class who started just after Easter and is receiving great feedback. LS also shared details of another new teacher starting in September covering a new group of students. LS finally detailed how a supply teacher has also been taken on permanently at Heatherwood.</p>	
<p>8. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK</p>	
<p>8.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>8.2. To consider any areas of risk discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p>	

Thursday 23 rd June 2022	14:00 – 16:00	Heatherwood School	Business Meeting
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Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE

DRAFT