



North Ridge Academy Council Meeting Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 13:00 North Ridge Academy

| Those Present: | | |
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| Lisa Suter | Executive Headteacher | LS |
| Sam MacDonald | Head of School | SM |
| Sacha Schofield | Nexus MAT Executive Regional Director and Chair | Chair |
| Jacky Tattershall | Nexus MAT Assistant CEO/Officer in Attendance | JT |
| Rachel Potts | Nexus Director and Governor | RP |
| Claire Garbutt | Appointed Governor | CG |
| Sue Kenny | Staff (Support) Governor | SK |
| Sam Lee | Staff Governor | SL |
| Jim Phillips | Parent Governor | JP |
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| Also Present: | | |
| Tracie Lockwood | Governance Clerk | Clerk |
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| Apologies: | | |
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| 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 | |
| 2. BEST WE CAN BE AWARDS | |
| <p>2.1. Best We Can Be Awards</p> <p>LS explained that it has previously proven difficult to single out individual staff, however, the school are now in a position to participate – although they will slightly be amending the internal process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT will nominate one of the teaching staff • The teaching staff will nominate one of their support staff • The office team will nominate one of their team and staff from across the wider school <p>It will be open to anyone across the school, with the belief that it gives everyone an opportunity to shine. Multiple nominations may be received, with one winner drawn out. LS is still finalising the details and this has not yet been shared with staff.</p> <p>JP asked that as well as the selected winner, will all the nominees also be notified?</p> <p>LS confirmed this will be the case. LS further explained that it is intended for the chosen winner to be briefly presented at the Academy Council meeting.</p> | |
| 3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS | |
| 3.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered. None | |
| 4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS | |
| 4.1. Individual Governors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda JP is associated with the Forest School, which is mentioned within the documentation. | |
| 5. NORTH RIDGE SCHOOL LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MINUTES | |
| 5.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting: The minutes of the meeting held 16 th November 2022 were approved as a true record. | |
| 5.2. Review of Action Tracker The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated. | |

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| <p>5.3. Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p> | |
| <p>6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED</p> | |
| <p>6.1. Headteacher Report</p> <p>LS was thanked for a comprehensive report and supporting documents.</p> <p>LS provided an overview of the report and provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school are working closely with Paula Williams (Nexus Regional Director) re: attendance and focussing on the 'c' codes and reducing the number of these. • Transport is now being 'y' coded. There have been 17.5 days lost to transport issues. • Removing medical appointments increases the overall attendance figure to 91.93% (from 90.7%). <p>Chair asked for further information on the number of persistent absences. LS advised that it relates to specific pupils. The school are aware of the situation and now have returned to a more robust reporting system.</p> <p>SM detailed the difficulties being faced in respect of one particular pupil. The school have agreed with the EWO for the pupil to receive daily home tuition for a 12-week period (using the pupil's allocated funding linked to the EHCP). The hope is to transition the pupil back into school and there has been a noted increase in pupil engagement. Despite previous challenges, Mum is now positively working with the school and is now also accepting support from other professional services. Chair commended LS and SM in their handling of this difficult situation.</p> <p>SM also explained that childhood/medical illnesses within the school, significantly impacts attendance figures. LS added that the school has weekly plans in place, linked to these specific pupils.</p> <p>JT queried if the LIFE curriculum relaunching for the Spring 2 term is still on track? SM replied that LIFE will now be relunched in the Summer term and will be alternating History and parts of Citizenship.</p> <p>LS confirmed to RP's query, that a Caretaker will be appointed tomorrow.</p> <p>RP queried if the staff meetings designed to address planning, were taking place. SM confirmed they were and believes that staff have the knowledge, but have difficulty with the articulation. Bespoke and focussed support is in place, which will be re-visited again over the Summer term for greater depth. This also aids the development of the Curriculum Lead.</p> <p>RP acknowledged that this process would help to build confidence.</p> | |

SL added that it creates a deeper understanding of 'what', 'why' and 'how', which then facilitates better planning.

LS stated that CG is supporting the school and the individual staff through this process.

Chair commented that there an increased pressure on teachers, with the requirement from Ofsted to demonstrate a far greater depth in the curriculum.

SM stated that the Early Years package would be of great benefit to some experienced teachers, to provide an insight into the new language.

Chair suggested it would be useful to relay this comment back to the Trust.

CG made an observation re: 'triangulation'. The structures have been embraced and it's evident that they are being using to the maximum potential.

LS and SM both agreed that it's strengthening the 'offer'.

CG noted the recent training day on Positive Behaviour Management, but also noted the suspension. **CG queried if the school required any additional resources to support the next level of intervention?**

LS acknowledged that consistent language was needed throughout the school and added that the training has "transformed the school".

SM added that the 'EMR' (Establish, Maintain and Restore) method has had a significant and positive impact on addressing behaviour. This will be followed up by a Team Teach session for the whole school.

Chair suggested it would be useful to share the presentation

Action: LS/SM to share the Positive Behaviour Management presentation

**LS/SM
05/07/23**

Standards Report

JT noted the action points within the report. What systems are in place to ensure these actions are implemented and monitored?

SM confirmed that both SM & LS check in with Jade Alcaraz (report author) for a verbal update.

JT queried if these actions feed in somewhere? Within the QA cycle?

SM replied that they will appear in pupil progress meetings.

LS added that the actions are also picked up in the schools monitoring cycles, but would be picked up in a 'deep dive' if there was an urgent issue.

6.1.1 SIP

LS confirmed that this document will be updated in line with the school cycle – first half of term will be RAG rated, which will then assessed against the evidence during the second half term.

Chair queried if everything in the SIP is going to plan?

LS responded that some things will carry over, but everything will have started. LS would like to explore the possibility of moving to a 3 yearly SIP, as it's believed that this would 'future proof' and strategically strengthen the school.

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| <p>This could possibly be implemented in September 2023.</p> | |
| <p>6.1.2 School SEF</p> <p>LS confirmed that the school continues to self-assess as 'good'.</p> <p>Chair questioned how far away is the school away from outstanding? LS/SM both confirmed they are still working on the quality of education. There have been new teachers to the school and have experienced a high degree of change. The school are consolidating to ensure 'outstanding' teaching is occurring throughout the school.</p> | |
| <p>6.2. Community Voice</p> <p>SM stated that since the report was written, Parents Evening has taken place. 43 parents attended in person and 20 phone calls were made, which reflects a high level of engagement from parents.</p> <p>RP observed the comparison since Covid. So much progress has been made re: pupil engagement and pupils engaging in the community.</p> <p>Chair queried if any plans have been made for the school funds? SM confirmed that due to the current cost of living crisis, the school has decided to subsidise events. The school funds will be allocated this academic year on pupil experiences e.g. trips to the cinema, which will be fully funded.</p> <p>CG noted the school clothing bank, but has a food bank been considered? SM replied that the school has a food bank referral service.</p> | |
| <p>6.3. Budget Report</p> <p>LS shared that the school has a surplus and has plans to improve outdoor area – phase 2. LS is also aware of potential Biophilic projects.</p> <p>JT requested an update on Harmony House LS advised that a site visit took place yesterday (7th March) with the local authority and understands that a positive outcome could be imminent re: the ordering of the palisades fencing. LS also advised that the properties surrounding Harmony House are not being vandalised, so is considering engaging the local community in order to support the school in reducing the regularity and level of vandalism.</p> | |
| <p>6.4. School Calendar</p> <p>No questions raised.</p> | |
| <p>6.5. Cabinet Member & MP's Feedback from Pupil Parliament</p> <p>Pupil A delivered a captivating presentation to the members and with spoke with superb confidence. Pupil A detailed some of the topics they have been discussing (playground equipment) as a group and the thoughtful reasons behind their decisions.</p> <p>Photos were shared around the room.</p> | |

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| <p>Pupil A articulated some of the attributes of being a member of the Pupil Parliament and explained what happens during a meeting.</p> <p>They aspire to visit Parliament in London.</p> <p>Pupil was positively praised for delivering the wonderful presentation, in what could be deemed to be an intimidating environment.</p> <p>Action: Chair to formally send a letter of thanks to Pupil A, following their presentation at the meeting.</p> | <p>Chair 05/07/23</p> |
| <p>6.6. Skills Audit – Governor Self-Assessment</p> <p>Chair advised that an email will be shared with all following the meeting with further details.</p> | |
| <p>7. TRUST MATTERS</p> | |
| <p>7.1. Trust Verbal Update of Key Issues</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> | |
| <p>8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> | |
| <p>8.1. To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair</p> <p>None.</p> | |
| <p>9. CONFIDENTIALITY & RISK</p> | |
| <p>9.1. To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p> | |
| <p>10. DATES OF NEXT MEETING</p> | |

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| Wednesday 5 th July 2023 | 13:00 – 15:00 | North Ridge Academy |
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Minutes approved

| CHAIR | SIGNATURE | DATE |
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