

Minutes – Woodlands Academy Council

Meeting Date: 14 Nov 2024
Location: WDA
Time: 3.30pm

Members	Lance Mason (LM)	Sponsor Councillor
	Catherine Bennett (CB)	Sponsor Councillor
	Andy Kendall (AK)	Sponsor Councillor
	<i>Vacancy</i>	Parent Councillor
	Katherine Brockett (KB)	Teacher Councillor
	Carey King (CK)	Support Staff Councillor
	<i>Vacancy</i>	Sponsor Councillor

Apologies: Huw Grove (HG) Sponsor Councillor

In Attendance	Lisa Craig	Headteacher
	Susie Weaver	Director of Education
	Sue Burns (SB)	Clerk

Item	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Action
1.1	LM welcomed Catherine Bennett and Carey King to their first AC meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were received from Huw Grove.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	Catherine Bennett is also an AC for Waycroft Academy Council.	
3.0	Academy Council Membership	
3.1	There are two parent AC vacancies.	
3.2	There has been an application for a Sponsor Councillor; their application is currently being processed.	
4.0	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
4.1	The minutes of the previous meeting (15.07.24) were agreed to be an accurate record.	
5.0	Actions and Matters Arising	
5.1	SW to circulate to the Academy Council a report on how the operational issues are being addressed and the timescales to resolve them – Closed.	
6.0	Academy Council Report	
	Quality of Education	
6.1	We are awaiting our second data drop so that we can determine the impact of the interventions that we've put into place.	
6.2	KB: I met with Huw last week and we discussed having an additional data-focused meeting following the T2 data drop.	
6.3	ACTION: All ACs are invited to join the SLT meeting on Tues 7 January 2025 or Thur 9 January 2025, to discuss the T2 data drop.	LC
6.4	Will historical black box data be available to see trends?	

	Yes, a heatmap is provided with the black box data. We can't easily compare data year on year because there is significant change in the cohort due to high pupil mobility.	
6.5	New starters are highlighted on the data in yellow but the names have been removed.	
6.6	What have the highlights been to date? The raising attainment work that we've done with the Trust has been very impactful with lots of small group and one-to-one targeted interventions. There is also a pastoral element to the arrangement because children are having high quality conversations with adults. SW: The work has been really well received by the staff and the Academy Councillors.	
6.7	Using the CLF structures has ensured that processes are more robust. HG has attended two Core Team meetings.	
6.8	A Health & Safety meeting has taken place which went well because we've been very proactive about H&S in the school. In future, H&S minutes will be circulated.	
6.9	The help and support available across the Trust has been extremely beneficial. The recent ARV highlighted next steps and staff training will be provided for new initiatives such as Ashley Down Times Tables.	
6.10	What are the barriers to learning? Some of our children find it challenging to retain learning.	
6.11	[REDACTED]	
6.12	What is Team Teach? It's a range of strategies to support pupils with de-escalation which includes crisis, recovery and repairing relationships. The training also includes distraction and de-escalation strategies as well as swapping out with other adults. Ordinary Available Provision and examining trends in behaviours are also strategies that we use.	
6.13	We are reviewing our Behaviour Policy and will re-launch it to ensure it's applied consistently across the school.	
6.14	We are also reviewing our PPA timetabling.	
6.15	What are the barriers to learning? Our children find it challenging to retain learning, so we are trialling a range of strategies to address that and we are thinking about how to improve children's behaviour for learning.	
6.16	ACTION: LC to add 'behaviour' to the T3 Agenda.	LC
	Attendance	
6.17	Attendance continues to be a focus. With a small school, each child represents a higher attendance percentage which impacts on our data.	
6.18	The CLF attendance tracker allows us to look at the past six weeks of attendance data which means we can focus on key individuals.	
	Teaching & Learning	
6.19	Is Y6 writing still a focus? Yes. The writing that Y6 produced this week was the best they've produced so far. This could be due to the amount of writing input they've had this academic year, or we may need to review the texts that we use with them as they have enjoyed the unit.	

6.20	In addition, to ensure that teachers have very high expectations for writing to embed learning and also to increase writing stamina.	
6.21	Writing is a Trust focus this year. We've undertaken writing moderations and looked at the exemplification and we are working with the CLF English Lead re support for Teaching Staff so that they can support writing.	
6.22	We've changed the structure of SPAG lessons to ensure that they are more interactive for the children.	
6.23	We are exploring how to further develop oracy in the school because some of our children don't construct sentences correctly verbally and therefore cannot identify the areas in written text or their writing.	
Finance		
6.24	The CLF will subsidise our budget again this year. We will need to consider how we can set a balanced budget next year which may incorporate mixed year-group classes. There are some advantages to mixed year-group classes, particularly as our cohort is transient.	
6.25	[REDACTED]	
6.26	[REDACTED]	
9.0	Policies	
9.1	None	
10.0	Matters for the attention of the Board /COAC	
10.1	Estates: LC has raised the issue of the current estates arrangement for small schools and would like this raised at COAC to see if other schools are having a similar experience.	
11.0	AOB	
11.1	None	
12.0	Close of Meeting	
12.1	The meeting closed at 5.30pm	