

Minutes for Parent Council Meeting

Spring term 2015 – 17th April

8.50am – 10.15am, PPA Room

Attending

Helen Doran (4F) Chair

Elizabeth Collins (4F) Minutes

Lotty Gladstone (5C)

Kath Barlow (5M)

Efrat Liberman (2H)

Lucie Arnaud (1AC)

Debbie Goodrick (2E)

Sheila Watts (6F)

Wilma Kotzenberg (4C)

Sarah Peake (3LW)

Roisin Vaughan (Rec C)

Kate Noble (3L)

Lottie Spires (1AC)

Gill Bunting (3P)

Mark Stevenson (2H)

For school:

Paula Ayliffe

Chris Fryer

Judith Greenwood (Governor)

Apologies

Erminia Carillo (1H)

Rachel Watson (5C)

ITEMS

1. **School core values.** Mr Fryer handed out a draft document about the school core values (for example respect, resilience and empathy). He outlined how the curriculum has been devised from the child outwards and six core values stood out as ones that staff would like to encourage in all Mayfield children. Children are rewarded in school with special achievement awards (nominally one per class per week, but this is at the teacher's discretion as children have to display the behaviours to earn the reward). Headteacher awards continue to be given for other achievements including special effort in core values that are not the focus of the current term. Core values are celebrated in team assemblies and links made to values at home and the wider world. The current core value is kindness.

Other points:

- Will core values be covered in parent consultations? To be discussed by school but general feeling is it would be a good starting point.

- Is there a gender bias to the awards e.g. kindness may be seen as “female”? This will be monitored by school as part of an annual review.
- Not every child will get an award as they need to be kept special. Some children will get more than one but for different core values.
- Core values will be reviewed and may change e.g. empathy and kindness are seen as similar.

Any further questions or feedback please contact Mr Fryer.

2. **Engagement with Yr 6 parents over SATs. Briefly discussed as this is the last year of current style SATS.** Mr Fryer and Mrs Fraser are organising the timetable. SATS will mainly be in the morning of test week with Level 6 papers in the afternoons and Friday to unwind. There will be no Level 6 papers next year and some schools are not entering any pupils for Level 6 but concentrating on level 4 as this is what matters to Government/ Inspectors. Improved communication is promised for next year when the system changes. Year 6 parents to put questions to Helen Doran and Sheila Watts to forward to Mr Fryer (team leader) cc Mr Fenton (Y6 class teacher).

Completed action: A comprehensive Q&A response from Mr Fryer and year 6 teachers has been sent to all Yr 6 parents on google groups.

3. **Marking of homework** especially for Yr 6 (how often, constructive comments, loss of housepoints if books are not being marked, revision of literature homework to make more ‘boy friendly’). Homework policy is reviewed as part of an annual process (under review).

Completed action: As part of the Yr6 Q&A response we have a detailed response to the questions posed above.

4. **Update on the academy conversion. Specifically, is the bid externally funded? What costs has Mayfield had to meet?**

As we did not go to the next stage no costs were incurred. Single schools are not viewed favourably in sponsoring another school. Academy conversion is under review and if it continues it will be externally funded.

5. **Would the Mayfield Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body like any input from the Parent Council in the autumn, to help advertise Mayfield's strengths to prospective parents?**

Actions:

- Parent reps to remind others about Mayfield's Twitter account and to re-tweet messages about the school.
- Send good quality images of school activities to Mrs Ayliffe (but not showing faces).
- A subset meeting of interested parent reps to follow up further ideas. Reps to let Mrs Ayliffe know if they are interested in being part of this.

6. Progress measures

There is likely to be a new planning model from September. This will be based on the topic for the half term with learning objectives for each subject and possibly a traffic light system showing progress and three most important areas for improvement. In the future it may be possible for these to be accessible by parents online. There is currently no finalised framework from the government but they are expecting 'mastery' of subjects. Schools are expecting this in July. In Mayfield's proposed model the learning objectives are set by the school, but the topics are chosen by class teachers and can change from year to year. The school will inform parents when the new system is in place.

7. Parent Consultation Meetings

Some reps reporting that teachers all have different ways of communicating in parent consultations and training including role play was suggested.

Action: Mrs Ayliffe to share this concern with the Leadership Team.

The choice on whether to bring a child to the parent consultation rests with each family (and this will be made clearer). School will clarify school expectations.

8. Update on the new groundsman (given that parents are still noticing outside maintenance issues), when outside play equipment will be open for use, can the path outside the Year 4 classrooms be extended?

The new outside play equipment is now in use. The appointment of a Groundsman has gone to Governor's Finance Committee for approval but it is unlikely any appointment will be made before September 2015. Year 4 path has gone to Premises Committee for discussion/approval. We asked what could be done in the meantime to 'Spring Clean' the outside of the school and grounds.

9. Condition of the toilets near the swimming pool, for use after school.

This has been painted and cleaning will be monitored regularly.

10. PHSE - what is taught and when. Information is sporadic and there is not much on the website.

Mrs Ayliffe has produced a document for the website which is based on the Cambridgeshire framework. Puberty is covered in Year 5 and Year 5 parents complimented the school on how well this was done but a male teacher has not been available to talk to the boys. Biology is taught within the science curriculum but there is an option to withdraw children from PHSE. Books and resources are available in school for parents to borrow and discuss with their children. Mrs Ayliffe is happy to answer any further questions.

11. Target sessions vs drop-in sessions. Has the latter superseded the former?

No school policy for one or the other. Target sessions were considered good by several reps. Feedback to Mrs Ayliffe.

12. Sanctions such as missing break/lunch for infants

Some Yr 2 parents feel that sanctions, such as keeping children in over break time, are not appropriate for their children. There is no whole school approach to this issue so parents with concerns about their own child should talk to the class teacher.

13. Children being let out late after school, missing start of clubs and activities

Parent reps to let Mrs Ayliffe know which teachers this applies to if it is happening on a regular basis.

14. Supply Teachers

Children can tell their class teacher on their return about the time spent with a Supply Teacher should they so wish to.

15. Gate locking

Some parents are unhappy that the gate is locked at 9.00am whilst they are still in school particularly reception parents who are trying to settle their child.

Mrs Ayliffe said parents were welcome to stay as long as needed and could leave via the office. Some flexibility was requested so that the gate was not closed when someone was obviously trying to leave.

16. Do clubs promoted by school in newsletters have to adhere to any standards set by Mayfield?

Judith Greenwood showed a list of checks for in school clubs. It is unclear whether this applied to out of school clubs where the school hands out flyers. Paula Ayliffe to check with school office.

17. School meals on ParentPay. There seems to be a problem between class teachers recording school meals and office allocating payment on ParentPay.

Individual queries on lunch payments go to Mrs O’Gorman in the office. Lottie Spire is collecting feedback from reception and year 1 parents about how their child chooses their lunch and whether parents should have more control. The size of packed lunches provided for older children was considered too little although Judith Greenwood said that the salad bar was always available as a top-up. Some parents mentioned that sometimes food runs out particularly for Y3/4 and Judith Greenwood will look into this. Consider a separate meeting about school meals with Kate Vadhia when we have some feedback.

18. Next meeting

There are a number of issues that still need to be discussed before the end of the school year so a further meeting will be held in early June (probably 8.50 on 5 June).

Items for discussion include:

- Transition
- Communication
- Parent Reps for next year (roll over, new reps)

19. MAPS

MAPS is struggling and needs more help. We discussed whether the Parent Council could give more support but the Parent Council has specific responsibilities which are in our terms of reference. MAPS also needs the support of teachers and staff to be successful. (There is a staff rep. on MAPS, plus at least one other member to attend all meetings. Staff participate in all cake sales and will be attending and helping with the Summer Fayre).