

Parent Council Meeting Monday 2nd June 2014

Attending:

Paula Ayliffe (school lead)

Judith Greenwood (Governor)

Charlotte Lestienne (Chair)

Rachel Watson (Minutes)

Efrat Liberman (Yr 1)

Elizabeth Collins (Y 3)

Diane Rowland (Y 6)

Erminia Carillo (Reception)

Kate Noble (Yr 2)

Lottie Spires (Reception)

Lotty Gladstone (Y 4)

Sarah Leigh (Yr 2)

Amy Ellis (Y 6)

Apologies:

Emma Smith (Y 5)

Lucie Arnaud (Reception)

Debbie Goodrick (Y1)

Zahra Jawad (Y2)

Gill Bunting (Y2)

Helen Doran (Y3)

Claire Hancock (Y 5)

Tanis Bendall (Yr 3)

1. Changes to National Curriculum (Paula Ayliffe)

Information about new National Curriculum at Mayfield - Paula Ayliffe confirmed that there will be a start of year presentation to parents in September or possibly before then, time and date to be confirmed. The new curriculum will be more topic-based, driven by investigation and enquiry.

ACTION: Paula Ayliffe to inform parents of time / date of presentation.

2. Parent Council Reps to meet new class teachers

Paula Ayliffe said she would make sure this happened. Kate Noble stated that this would help with easing the transition process, especially this year when some classes are due to be mixed.

ACTION: Paula Ayliffe to ensure that Parent Council reps are able to meet with next year's teachers for their respective classes, in preparation for the new school year.

3. Class Mixing

Reps thanked the school for Mrs Hill's Q and A on this issue of 21st May. Paula Ayliffe was able to tell the meeting that the Year 1 classes would be mixed, but was unable to comment on any other year

groups as that was a decision for other year leaders. She stated that for the vast majority of children there would be no change, with only one or two year leaders considering this option.

Year 4 reps expressed concern that clear information was needed earlier, and Judith Greenwood asked why the information could not be made public earlier. Paula Ayliffe said the decision would be taken after end of year assessments and made public on transition day. Sarah Leigh said that only knowing that the class was going to change but not knowing which friends could cause anxiety. Paula Ayliffe said that most children will be with their friends but one or two combinations in each year group were not working out and that she would talk to the parents concerned. Judith Greenwood thought the process would broaden friendships. Diane Rowland asked if class mixing would now be done on a routine basis, to which Paula Ayliffe replied that this had been discussed. It had not been done before because it might cause issues for a high number of children with additional needs.

4. School Meals

Judith Greenwood explained the tendering process for delivery of school meals. Three suppliers had been shortlisted on the basis of offering the highest quality service rather than the cheapest. These three were due to present to school on Monday 23rd June in order to choose the winning provider. Some reps asked about how the meals will be monitored. Judith Greenwood assured PC that Miss Hill regularly checks at mealtimes, and that a day when parents could come in was being suggested. A Doodle poll on meals was suggested but Paula Ayliffe asked to wait until the new provider was established in role.

5. Refresh of PC

Lotty Gladstone suggested that there are other parents who might like to be parent reps but that there is no formal mechanism for ending a rep's term of office. At the moment there is no time limit. Lotty suggested we limit it to a two year term so that new people can stand.

ACTION: Lotty Gladstone to email all reps and ask when they joined Parent Council

ACTION: Need to change this in the terms of reference and have it signed off by the governing body.

6. Meeting times and school plays

PC discussed times of performances and meetings so that working parents can attend. Efrat Liberman suggested evening meetings and performances to accommodate working parents, although Katie Noble said it might be too much for younger children to perform in the evening. Paula Ayliffe said that times were limited by long-term lets of the hall.

The amount of notice given for meetings by the school was also discussed. The RH transition day was cited as an example (at 2.30pm and parents only found out the day before) Paula Ayliffe said dates had been sent out on Google mail. It was suggested that email reminders were missed by parents and that a noticeboard or whiteboard in the playground with weekly items might help. Charlotte Lestienne suggested Year 6 could write this up once a week.

ACTION: Parent Council to look into an alternative system of advertising performance and meetings.

7. Breakfast Club

Judith Greenwood told the meeting that any proposal for a breakfast club would not get past the governing body. Paula Ayliffe confirmed that they had looked into this 18 months ago and it wasn't viable. Judith Greenwood cited Milton Road School where parents run the breakfast club as a private enterprise and said a club at Mayfield was not possible unless it was run by a charity or parents.

8. Science Week

Diane Rowland said that there had been positive feedback about the Science Week events in school and that they had tied in well with Science Week in Cambridge.

9. Hand sanitisers

Diane Rowland asked if it might be worth getting some hand sanitisers, particularly in the winter. Kate Noble said the toilets often run out of soap, but said that sanitisers will need topping up. Paula Ayliffe said children should tell the teachers so that the soap can be topped up.

ACTION: To ask Kate Vadhia to raise this suggestion and to check the toilets to ensure soap always there.

10. Absence letter

The tone of the absence letter has upset some parents, said Diane Rowland. Paula Ayliffe explained that it was a standard format letter from the county council and that some communities needed it to be in that format.

ACTION: Paula Ayliffe to take the letter to the leadership and see if it can be toned down.

11. Security

Diane Rowland raised the issue of scooters disappearing from the school playground. Paula Ayliffe's response was to ask parents to lock the scooters. Diane said it was very difficult to lock scooters. Lotty Gladstone said that Year 4 can store them in the classroom. Parents are advised to ask their teachers if there is somewhere scooters can be stored securely during the school day.

12. School kitchen

Diane Rowland asked about the use of the school kitchen and whether more could be done there. Paula Ayliffe told the meeting that cooking was on the curriculum from September in DT, and Judith Greenwood suggested the caterers might be able to run a club if not too expensive.

13 Author visits

Diane Rowland asked if school could make a better deal with visiting authors as there is currently a lot of pressure to buy books. Paula Ayliffe explained that currently there is no discount and that either the author visits free of charge and their books are full price, or they are paid a fee. Elizabeth

Collins made the point that authors are coming to promote their books and not teach children to read or write. Kate Noble suggested a workshop instead, where parents pay a fixed fee.

ACTION: Paula Ayliffe to check with class teachers and make sure author visits are spread out and that parents know about that. To look at alternatives to authors promoting books and selling at full price, for example workshops or authors donating to the library.

14. Whiteboards

Diane Rowland expressed concerns about left handed children using whiteboards as they rub out their work as they write.

ACTION: Paula Ayliffe to look this up and report back.

15. Gritting in School Grounds

Elizabeth Collins thanked the school for gritting the playgrounds.

Any Other Business:

- Concerns were raised by Lotty Gladstone that Y3 had lots of school trips in quick succession but only one trip in Y4. Paula Ayliffe explained that the new curriculum would address this as trips should be spread across the year, with hopefully one per topic. Judith Greenwood said the GB was reviewing paid trips. Spending money on trips was also raised, and it was discussed whether a limit could be imposed.
- Y6 asked about staggering the payments for PGL; Paula Ayliffe said Kate Vadhia was in contact with some parents who had asked to pay in smaller amounts.
- Amy Ellis said the conservation area was messy with litter and rarely cleaned up. Paula Ayliffe said the children were supposed to go around at lunchtime but might need directing. She said she would ask about this.
- Diana Rowland informed the meeting that musical instruments can be bought through the school, saving on VAT. Kate Vadhia to be asked to put the information in the newsletter.
- Paula Ayliffe said the new intake evening would take place on Wednesday 11th June from 18.30 to 19.15 and invited reps to attend.