

Minutes for Spring Term Parent Council Meeting

25th February 2016

Present: Helen Doran 5C, Gill Bunting 4N, Lotty Gladstone 6F, Lucie Arnaud 2H (Chair), Tracey Lattimore RAC, Clare Hewlett 3LW, Elizabeth Collins 5C, Kim Komljanec RJ, Sarah Stepney, Deputy Head, Judith Greenwood, Governors.

Apologies: Erminia Carillo 2E, Orla Machin 2E, Lottie Spires 2H, Van Bui RAC, Jude Ashman RJ, Roisin Vaughan 1H, Mark Stevenson 3LW, Sarah Peake 4M, Tricia Gilmour 4N, Wilma Kotzenberg 5M, Rachel Watson 6F, Kath Barlow 6O.

1. Issues for discussion

1.1 (Reception) End of year school disco in July.

- The aim is for this to be a one-off fund raiser and not part of MAPs events.
- Reception parents taking the lead.
- Dates will need to be carefully checked to avoid end of term events and clashes with SATs, Ramadan etc.
- Contact Ben Thorpe (Playtime) about the possibility of borrowing equipment and acting as DJ.
- Consult MAPS book on the question of how school discos are run (Mrs Ayliffe to advise where this is) e.g. Reception and Year 1 together, Years 2 & 3 and Years 4, 5 & 6.
- Logistics discussed - food and drinks charged separately, siblings, teachers staying behind.

Action: Kim to discuss with Reception parents.

1.2 (Governors) Ideas for how the Parent Council can help with the revitalisation of MAPS.

- Discussed MAPS issues - suggested change of name (PTA), change of structure (rolling chair, smaller groups responsible for smaller events to alleviate workload) and need to make messages more positive as currently negative and focused on what isn't happening.
- Agreed on need for a fresh start and suggested re-launch via an open evening with emphasis on fund-raising ideas for PTA, rather than trying to recruit a new MAPs/PTA committee.

1.3 (Reception) Self-evaluation of Parent Council.

- There has been some evaluation via last (not most recent) Governor's survey. In any ask of parents we have to be careful that parents are not rating the effectiveness of their class reps rather than the whole PC.
- It was agreed that it would be a good idea to remind parents of PC's role, missions and objectives and what we have influenced e.g. changing of school meals provider, new grounds person post, new venue for Christmas concert, tightening up of

photography/recording at school performances, new playground markings in infant playground.

Action: Lottie to draft short document on what PC has achieved and differences between PC and MAPs/PTA. Kim (as fresh 'new' rep to review). The document will be posted on the school website.

1.4 (Yr 5) Class litter picking competition.

- As a general clean up at the end of term, or after a large event, could there be a thorough sweep of the school grounds by children with litter pickers. If possible could this include a fun element e.g. house points for whoever had collected the most litter, class prize.

Action: Mrs Stepney to consider and discuss with school.

2. Updates

2.1 (Yr 2) Infant playground markings.

- Painting going ahead with proposed designs (not all elements but most of them due to budget constraints) over Easter.

Action: Lucie to draft text to put in newsletter to update parents, giving credit to Helen Thorpe for all her hard work.

2.2 (Yr 6) Yr 5/6 meeting at Chesterton about setting in Yr 7.

- Discussed how useful the meeting was for Yr 5 and 6 parents.
- Could we make this an annual meeting so all year 5 and 6 parents get an opportunity to meet Chesterton's head and understand setting of pupils in Yr 7.

Action: Mrs Stepney to pass on thanks to Mrs Hill for organising the meeting. Request from PC to school to make this an annual event and put in the school's calendar.

3. AOB

3.1 Two unfilled Governor's posts.

3.2 (Yr 4) Attendance awards – what is the purpose as some children will never receive these due to genuine illness? The Awards are given to comply with government policy on rewarding and encouraging attendance. There are plenty of other rewards children can receive – e.g. Head teacher awards, core skills such as empathy and kindness.

3.3 Thank you to Mrs Stepney for organising the Bake Off which the children have all really enjoyed.