

Parent Council 18 March 2015

Present: Chris Byrne (Chair), Eduarda Mateus (Acting Treasurer), Eric Freund, Janina de Garcia E Costa, Moira Spignese, Gaetano Lautera, Lisa Tansey, Yvonne Houston, Charlotte Intihar, Sally Barker (Head Teacher), Lynsey Stewart (P1 teacher).

Apologies:

Matthew Edmondson

1. Minutes of the last meeting – approved

2. Matters arising

- Eduarda Mateus has agreed to be our new treasurer on an acting basis until September and was welcomed. Chris has the signatories form and will fill it in with Eduarda.
- We weren't able to hear an update on email communication from Matthew.

3. HT report

Funding for free fruit will stop after the Easter holidays as fruit is now a dessert option at lunch. Funding this independently was discussed and it was agreed that local supermarkets (Sainsbury's and Lidl) would be approached. **It wasn't agreed/clear who was going to do this.**

The first scooter/bike rack was delivered today and installed in the bike shed. 2 smaller ones to go down each side wall are still to arrive. These have been made for us by the Community Justice team.

Sally passed on thanks from the Season's for Growth group who have used £100 donated by the Parent Council to buy essential resources. The group is up and running and the children who are attending are benefiting.

P1 numbers were discussed; we currently have 35 children on our list to start in August with at least 15 on a waiting list. Eduarda shared written guidance for placing twins with Sally to be discussed properly before the Easter holidays.

Breakfast club has started and has an average of 25 children attending each week. Scoosh are aiming to get to 50 children. Some parents have commented that they like the 'drop in' nature so that their children can attend on odd occasions if needed rather than having to make a longer term commitment. Payment was discussed with Sally saying that she has asked Scoosh to consider whether children attending Breakfast Club only could have an account and pay monthly rather than just the children who attend the After School Club.

Road safety was discussed at Regent Road and Sally will discuss this further with Lorna Henderson who is running the School Streets project. There have been concerns raised by Arthur Reid of Cable Com about parents dropping their children off and the children running across the road within sight of the lollipop ladies. Once the temporary traffic lights have lifted it will be worse as the traffic will be more free flowing. The attitude of the contractors

building the student accommodation was discussed at some length. Chris raised thoughts that through Section 75 building companies should make a contribution for local schools and communities. Charlotte made the point that making the front of the school safer could be making the back of the school more dangerous. The possibility of sensitive lights was discussed and the upcoming 20mph citywide limit in summer 2016. Making a map of the area with free parking spots to be handed out was discussed and Charlotte volunteered to do it in costume!

4. Chair's report

Chris attended the North Neighbourhood Parent Partnership meeting where it was confirmed that due to efficiency savings, some peripatetic music teachers will not be replaced.

Chris has asked Moyra Wilson to look into the situation with the janitors house; is there a programme for selling off unused council buildings?

The shortage of supply teachers was discussed at length; this is a crisis across the council. There is a new system of a pool of teachers being implemented but no dates have been confirmed by CEC.

5. Treasurer's report

Euarda has the relevant materials from Di. Linda Watt's husband will very kindly do our end of year accounts. Eduarda will archive past materials and keep relevant/current information with her. Eduarda explained that she can't commit past September due to upcoming personal commitments. Eduarda left the bag with Sally to be stored in Linda's office.

6. Sub groups report

There have been some communication issues regarding financing Abbeyhill t-shirts for the swimming gala/interscholastic events which have been further complicated by being between treasurers. Ease of communication was discussed; Eduarda has discussed storing finance information with Linda.

Swimming gala: this is coming up and Lisa observed that last year Abbeyhill children didn't have a sports uniform like others schools. She has ordered 10 t-shirts and hoodies for £109.80 and will need a cheque for this amount when she picks them up. A cheque was given to Lisa.

International Day (27th March): Charlotte raised the issue of finance and thinks that around £60-£70 will be needed for plates, cups, napkins etc. All food will be donated. Charlotte and Lisa will pay for what is needed and submit an invoice to Eduarda. Lisa asked Lynsey if teachers could make some bunting or flags with their classes and Lynsey passed this on.

Question: How are requests for money between meetings be dealt with?

Answer: The treasurer will use their discretion and consult with other office bearers.

A very detailed report was presented on behalf of Iliyana Nedkova who could not attend. There are many exciting and interesting projects being worked on in co-operation with the school and other cluster schools. Some of these are being fundraised for grant support. Please see attached report for more details.

7. Parents Suggestions

It has been suggested that a 'you asked, we said' sheet could be produced for the noticeboard as a method of feeding back to parents who submit questions in the box. One of the questions was about the teaching of sex education and another was asking whether teaching staff could be sharper on the bell.

Bullying – implementation of the policy. This was discussed at length with issues of confidentiality being raised. Some children and parents feel that no action is being taken if it isn't visible whereas this is not always the case.

8. AOB

Vouchers for Fair Trade food have arrived for the Eco Group to use for their Fair Trade tuck shop; Sally will pass them onto Denise Morgan.

Expenditure

The library refresh was discussed and £500 was agreed in principle. Sally will come to the next PC meeting with an exact figure.

The Volcano of Dreams needs an appropriate home! There are also some faded pictures which could be refreshed/replaced outside the Art Store.

Charlotte suggested a large chalkboard in the playground – perhaps blackboard paint or an actual blackboard?

Next meeting: 6th May at 1530