

Parents' Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 1 October 2018

Attendees: Mrs N Edwards
Dawn Bellis
Sally Clargo
May May Lee (Y6)
Lara Seymour (Y6)
Laura Draper (Y2, Y5)
Dee Aldons (Y3)
Hayley Sanders (Y4)
Nova Humphrys (R)
Clay Gibbons (R)
Sian Reading (R)

Apologies: Samantha Joseph (Y3)

1.0 Welcoming of both new members plus those returning, plus apologies were made for today's meeting.

2.0 Allocation of Parents' Council Reps

Allocation agreed by all of Reps:

Chair - Dawn Bellis
EYFS - Nova Humphrys (R), Sian Reading (R), Clay Gibbons (R)
Y1 - VACANT
Y2 - Laura Draper (plus Dawn Bellis)
Y3 - Dee Aldons (plus Clay Gibbons and Samantha Joseph)
Y4 - Samantha Joseph, Hayley Sanders
Y5 - Laura Draper
Y6 - May May Lee, Lara Seymour (plus Hayley Sanders)

In brackets are members of the Council who also have children within that particular year group also. There are still vacancies for 2x Y1 Reps, 1x Y2 and 1x Y5 – should anybody be interested in these, please email dawn@evolutionelectrics.co.uk

3.0 New School Website

As promoted within the school newsletter, the new school website is now very much up and running. Consensus is that it is now much more tidier and user friendly with more options to choose from and the ability to find the information you are searching for. Suggestion was made for more photos/videos to be published to encourage its usage. This would only be applicable to those families who have consented to and returned their GDPR forms.

4.0 Values & Visions

Sadly Mrs Edwards reported back that as yet there has been very little return in regard to the idea of creating a school “strapline” to accompany the school badge for items such as headed paper etc. It does only need to be one line. Suggestion was made of it being run as a “homework competition” collectively across the whole school with a prize incentive for the successful family. This could then be incorporated within the promoting and celebrating of St Andrews 150th Birthday celebrations in 2019. (See item 9.0 Any Other Business for further information on this item)

5.0 Breakfast & After School Clubs

Mrs Edwards advised that numbers still aren’t overly great for club usage and that several enquiries had been made with regards to breakfast club starting earlier at 7.30am. Initial opinion during the meeting was that the prices do seem quite high compared to other local schools, but in comparison to a private childminder they are a much cheaper option. In order for breakfast club to run earlier from 7.30am, more people would need to engage interest for it to be economical but it is not ruled out as a possibility should this happen. No change can be made to the after school club due to the Site Managers hours.

Mrs Edwards also indicated that both childcare vouchers and choices are accepted by Schoolfriend Clubs and are now set up in place for St Andrews pupils. The KS1 parents seem to favour the after school club.

Suggestion was made to further promote and advertise the clubs in addition to the newsletter; photos of the children doing activities, food provided to name a few. Also for Schoolfriend Clubs to be present in the School Hall on Parents Evening for any parents with questions/queries or just more information to be able to discuss with them directly.

The idea of school holiday clubs being run on site within holiday term was raised. Hillingdon Funfest has been suggested as an external entity coming in to provide such facilities for either half or whole days. Mrs Edwards mentioned that Get Active have already approached St Andrews with a view to operating holiday time clubs for the children. Again this would also be dependent upon the presence of the School Site Manager.

6.0 School Bags

Mrs Edwards wanted to clarify after recent Dojo communication that it is not the schools intention to ban any particular form of school bag, more the issue of space within the corridors. The topic of school bags had been generated by Staff at a recent Staff Meeting.

It was pointed out that PMG who now supply the book bags, may have an issue with the velcro fastening not being sturdy enough. Having browsed the PMG store, it was noticeable that a number of other schools/academies offer various logoed school bags in the form of: books bags, small rucksacks (KS1 size) and larger rucksacks (KS2 size) along with the traditional drawstring PE kit bags. Question was raised if this a potential possibility for St Andrews to try to cut down on “oversized” rucksacks clogging the walkways and being knocked off the pegs.

A suggestion was made that a drop off point be allocated for the school club bags, as these are obviously necessary on the days the club runs for kit/equipment etc.

Another idea is for a trug or trundle style racking underneath the pegs to store or catch any kit bags.

It was very much agreed that obviously book bags are far from ideal for KS2 usage, and that it is very much a matter of common sense. The request and ideal that was being conveyed, if a large backpack is not needed every day, does it need to be brought in everyday?

Space is very much an issue, and suggestion was made about a potential building extension. An extension to the school for large rucksacks at present unfortunately falls low down the list of its expenditure costs.

7.0 Eucharist Service / Music at School

Query was made as to who is now leading the music at St Andrews with the departure of Mr Withams. It was noticeable that at the first Eucharist Service of the academic year at St Margarets, the children were rather quiet. Collectively Mrs Edwards, Mrs Hymns, Mrs Gaines and Mrs Allen are in the process of rejuvenating the hymns and songs sung by the children, along with Reverend June also refreshing the Services. The possibility of moving the Choir to the front of the Service is under discussion. The Eucharist Services are not to be held on any set day of the week, the next Service being Friday 30th November at St Andrews Church to celebrate St Andrews Day.

It was drawn to our attention that at present there has been no communication from the Hillingdon Music Service in relation to individual instrumental lessons within KS2.

8.0 The Friends

Sally asked for a push on advertising the School Quiz night with Supper included, scheduled for Saturday 6th October. Teams to be made up of 6 – a fun night with a new Quiz Master who was really successful at his first quiz night with us last term.

There will be a luxury item day, scheduled for 16th November whereby the children are asked to bring in 1 luxury item for the staff tombola at the School Christmas Fayre. (items suggested but not restricted to include; any tins of biscuits, chocolate boxes, wine, toiletry sets, gift sets)

The School Christmas Fayre will be Friday 23rd November. More information will be issued, however this is very much dependant on volunteers coming forwards to assist with setting up/packing away or giving up some time to help run a stall. There will also be hot food/drinks available along with Santa's Grotto for the children to visit.

Sally advised there is a Friends Committee Meeting coming up very shortly.

9.0 Any Other Business

Referring back to item 4.0 Values & Visions, lengthy conversation was had over the celebrating of St Andrews 150th Birthday in January 2019. Suggestions varied from the Reps and include the following ideas:

- Re-union with previous students and integration with today's current pupils
- Publication of a booklet or programme about St Andrews, our ethos and how the School has changed over the years. This could include sponsorship by any local businesses interested in advertising also from within the surrounding areas.
- Dinner/Tea/Party/Assembly/Rotary Club inclusion within celebratory activities

- Planting of a tree or rose in commemoration of the events
- Art project within school, possibly on the “ball wall” in KS2 playground currently with the planetarium design on it
- Generic decorating inside the school with wall displays of the children’s work celebrating 150years
- A dress up day in the fashions of 150 years ago

Exciting times certainly seem to lay ahead for St Andrews and the forthcoming academic year incorporating such celebrations.

The new parents in EYFS stated it would be beneficial for them to also have a consultation/meet the Teachers session (like the rest of the School) as well as their one to one appointment. This will be arranged over the next week or so between Mrs Edwards and Miss Kang. It was felt it would assist with the intermingling of both Nursery and Reception Parents. Mrs Edwards advised that the Family in School days will run again this year after the success of last years visits.

Mrs Edwards then informed the Parents’ Council that St Andrews sadly ran quite a substantial deficit last year with payment towards the cost of school trips/events. These included the Roptorxotics Workshop Trip (down £150), The Lifebus (down £123) and the Theatre Company (down £158) just to name a few. Such hefty deficits leave the School out of pocket and eat into the Schools Central Budget. It was acknowledged by Mrs Edwards that after discovering further safe-guarding was necessary and needed to be in place on school trips last year, that more notification would be given in advance of all school trips to parents, and in some cases options to make payments over a period of time in instalments via ParentPay.

Several suggestions were made including payments upfront (credit style format) and the option of paying by cash. It is believed that only Academies can offer the facility of “credit” and upfront payment systems, whilst the downside of cash included sending in the correct amounts, or that it may go astray.

As part of the School Improvement Plan, the emphasis on such deficits will be published on the School website making all Parents aware, along with the updating of how much has been raised through various events and what that has resulted in the School being able to purchase with said funds.

It was clarified that the Care and Maintenance Fund in place is run by the Governors, and not the School itself.

9.0 Next Meeting

Scheduled for Wednesday 28th November 2018, starting @ 2pm