

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 25 September 2017

Attendees: Mrs N Edwards
Carol Turner
Dawn Bellis
Veronica Silva
Laura Draper
Dee Aldons
Toni Meadows
Sarah Harris

Apologies: May May Sung
Sally Clargo

1.0 Previous Minutes

Minutes from last Parents' Council meeting discussed and approved.
Final confirmation of Class Reps for 2017/18 academic year as follows:

Early Years	-	Veronica Silva
Year 1	-	Laura Draper
Year 2	-	Dee Aldons
Year 3	-	Toni Meadows
Year 4	-	Laura Draper
Year 5	-	May May Sung
Year 6	-	Sarah Harris

2.0 Woodland Area, KS1 Playground

Sally is making contact with the Borough through Jennie & Baron Jones (parents in Year 1) who both volunteered to clear out the area at the end of summer. Consensus is to potentially keep the dinosaurs and brighten them up instead of removal.

3.0 School Web Site / Newsletter

Acknowledgement made by Dawn Bellis that the school web site is taking shape and now being updated and modified. Mrs Edwards advised that Mrs Calder is currently updating it and that it will be a reference point and useful tool for parents to be guided towards for current and existing information.

Praise was also made for the new style weekly newsletter. Issue was raised that it's great to see the welcoming of new pupils in it, however would also be a nice token to say goodbye to those moving on to pastures new. Whilst the departing pupil(s) may not necessarily see it, it would be of use to those within the school to be aware of those children no longer present.

4.0 “Open” Classrooms

Opinions were strong that “open classrooms” are missed and should be reinstated. Laura suggested it as a possibility during the soft start school day whilst Sarah suggested it as a solution to increasing communication and a better understanding of how our children are working. It would allow parents/carers to see their child’s working environment and encourage a more open relationship with the school.

Mrs Edwards is very much encouraged by these thoughts, and would like to introduce 1 day a term whereby an allocated time will be offered on a potential rotational basis for Parents/Grandparents/Carers to attend their child’s classroom and spend some time looking at the child’s work. It was agreed that dates should be put out early so attendance can be accommodated and that there would be provision made for any children who didn’t have anyone attending on any such occasion to avoid feelings of exclusion.

5.0 Breakfast / After School Club

Carol took the letter received last term from a Reception Parent enquiring about breakfast/after school clubs to the Governors. Carol advised it is clear as a school we are losing both current attending children and an apparent decrease in entrant applications due to the lack of facilities provided and made this point to the Governors. As an example, the offering of a pre-school breakfast club commencing at 8am may be beneficial to a number of parents, however Carol then raised the issue of who would run them i.e. LSAs, childminders or an external company.

Mrs Edwards advised that there is a Governors meeting scheduled Thursday 28 September to which this can be raised and discussed further. The idea has been presented to Staff and the Governing Body. Ideally Mrs Edwards feels it would be most beneficial to keep in house and to look to extend contracts where necessary with rotas and costs to be investigated. This could be advertised within the newsletter, requesting for any volunteers prepared to come in and help out.

Equally, Mrs Edwards expressed encouragement in the setting up of an after school club to help parents out with child care and school collection. She acknowledged again we have lost children due to childcare problems. After initial enquiry made to St Andrews regarding the use of their Church Hall was questioned, it seems to be that keeping the club on site at school would be favoured and more practical. It was suggested that we should have 2 time slots, e.g. 1530-1630 and then a 2nd later collection time with costs charged accordingly. Investigation to be made with the School Caretakers hours as his day finishes at 5.15pm. Dawn will draft and issue a letter of interest to be distributed to the children within school, requesting which times would be preferred with results to be collated and discussed at our next meeting and forwarded onto the Governors to best gauge interest.

6.0 Any Other Business

Question was raised over who is now residing in St Andrews Vicarage, currently it is vacant.

Current condition of the external school notice boards was made, we agreed we need to look for any volunteers to improve and update them with current, relevant information.

Whilst grateful for those already on board, we discussed the need for there to be more support for Sally and The Friends Committee with regards to fund raising and events, ideas and suggestions; maybe something we can encourage within our year groups with the Parents' Council now being up and running again.

The issue of the Covenant Fund was raised again, topic discussed last term but have not received any requests for it as yet this year from the school. Re-iteration of this being posted on ParentPay was felt most beneficial to the school and encourage those perhaps who generally do not contribute to make partial payments or instalments, as well as for those who regularly contribute. Possibility of being able to see an individual, visual amount paid per child would be a good idea, or alternatively on the school web site a "savings page" should we have a particular target/goal for certain or specific items for people to see progressing.

The subject of the visiting Lifebus Charity was raised, and whether they would continue to visit due to not everybody contributing the small amount towards its cost. The Lifebus will continue to visit St Andrews, with the contribution still being made via ParentPay.

Question was raised over the statistics for St Andrews years 2014-2016. This will be on the agenda at the next Governors meeting and will be discussed further at the next Parents' Council meeting accordingly.

Photos will be taken of each class rep to go within their respective year group class window to encourage participation within Parents' Council and advertise to new Parents within the school who we are and what we do. Notice will also be made to go within the school office.

7.0 Next Meeting

Monday 6th November, 2.30pm