

Parents' Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Present

Renata Riach (Catering)	Jane Simpson (6S)
Jo Wilday (4H) – minute taker	Meena Jassal (5L)
Sandra Smith (6A)	Susan Beale-Burchell (6S)
Jo Belcluore-Groutage (3E)	Ruth Marshall (6T)
Michelle Wakelin (5P)	Jo Belcoure Groutage (3E)
Lisa Waring (Deputy Head Teacher)	Suzanne Fisher (4E)
Julie Moore (School Governor)	

Apologies

John Gibbons (PCSO 31088)	Mr Morrissey (Executive Head Teacher)
Jayne Loose (Catering)	Isabel Baumber (3G)
Joanne De-Stowe	

Minutes of Previous Meetings

- Minutes of previous meetings can be located on the school website

Actions from Previous Meeting

The following actions are still outstanding as Mr Morrissey and Isabel Baumber were absent from the meeting, therefore to be addressed in next meeting;

School Uniform

- Mr Morrissey to follow-up from the action of the last meeting to investigate possibility of John Lewis stocking the uniform as it is more local to the school. **(ACTION – Mr Morrissey)**

Zebra Crossing

- Isabel Baumber to continue with investigation into the possibility of an on-line petition which should carry more weight with the council requesting a permanent lollipop person on zebra crossing. **(ACTION – Isabel Baumber)**

Pathway

- The path outside the front of the school gates continues to be an issue, as very muddy and wet.
- Mrs Morrissey agreed to raise the matter in his meeting with college. **(ACTION – Mr Morrissey)**

Photo Packs

- It was requested that an alternative supplier could be sourced who would be able to;
  - Allow more flexibility in packs and choice of photo sizes
  - Option of formal / informal photo styles

- Ensure that the children are comfortable with posing for the camera
- Possibility to use a parent? **(ACTION – Mr Morrissey)**

## **Matters Arising**

### **Catering**

- Potatoes gratefully received from Gardening Club
- Events which have taken place include
  - Big Breakfast
  - Wimbledon lunch
  - Independence Day – extra 35 children took lunch
- Future Events
  - Leavers lunch – the menu has been created by the Year 6 pupils and includes chocolate cracknel and ginger fudge cake.
- Issue raised that some children were not getting what they had ordered, Renata confirmed that the kitchen will accommodate any changes where they can, but sometimes the food is not available.
- Confirmation that there are no meat products served on a Friday's.

### **Year 6 - Leaving Assembly**

- In previous year's children had stood up in groups in relation to which secondary school they were moving to.
- A parent had raised the issue of where a child who was not going to the same school as any of their year group and therefore had got very upset.
- Mrs Waring confirmed all children had been spoken to including 3 that were going to different schools and they were all happy to stand up in groups.

### **Infant and Junior School pick-up times**

- There has been a specific issue whereby the pick-up time for Infants at Solihull School was 3.15pm which we caused issues with pick-up from Junior School at 3.10pm.
- Request made by parents for the 2 schools to communicate better with each other to ensure this does not happen in future. **(ACTION – Mrs Waring)**

### **Recognition of Non-Academic Achievements**

- Issue was raised that the school focus appears to focus on academic and musical achievements which is not inclusive of all pupils who may not excel in these areas.
- Could there be some focus on for example sporting achievements and encourage more competition? **(ACTION – Mrs Waring to speak with Mr Morrissey)**

### **Sports Day / Houses**

- There was a suggestion that children have their houses chosen for them at Infant school?
- Also is there a possibility of a joint sports day in future to help integrate the schools more? **(ACTION – to be discussed in next meeting)**

### **School Trips and Beechwood**

- There has been a recent issue whereby Beechwood was not informed that children were on a school trip therefore would not be attending, despite the letter to parents asking whether their child was returning there. This resulted in a number of parents having to be called by Beechwood to check on their child's whereabouts.
- It was requested that a list of children on school trips to be sent to Beechwood from the school office or school trip letter is amended to state that it is the parent's responsibility to inform Beechwood? (**ACTION – Mrs Waring**)

### **School Report – Effort rating**

- It was raised that there may be some inconsistencies across classes in terms of the ratings for "effort" on the school reports, as it could be quite subjective measure.
- Mrs Waring confirmed that the school had benchmarked to ensure that ratings were consistently applied.

### **Polo Shirts for Boys**

- It was asked whether the school would consider allowing boys to wear white polo shirts in the summer term.
- Mrs Waring stated that this was not an option as the school wanted to maintain the smartness of the children.

### **Worry Boxes**

- It was raised that a worry box in Year 5 had not been opened for almost a week (over a weekend) and there was actually a note from a child in there, thus a potential safeguarding issue.
- Mrs Waring stated that all boxes should be checked on a daily basis and she would reiterate to teachers.

### **PE – Change of dates**

- It was requested that any changes to the day of the week that children have PE be communicated to parents to ensure the children have their PE kit in school.
- Mrs Waring agreed this should happen but that children should have their kit in school on all days as the timetable can change at short notice.

### **Changes of Dates on School Calendar**

- All changes to dates to be clearly marked as "new date", as it is easy to miss an amendment.

### **Ship of Dreams**

- It was highlighted that the date of the show has been confirmed at extremely short notice which has made it difficult for some parents to attend and organise care for their other children.

- Mrs Waring explained that this was due to new booking system at the College which has caused delay in confirmation and the school had been trying to confirm since Easter.
- For next year's performance it was requested that more notice is given and consideration of an alternative venue to allow for more than 2 tickets per child.

### **PE – changing facilities**

- It had been raised that some children were feeling uncomfortable changing in-front of the opposite sex as they were getting older.
- Mrs Waring stated that only Year 6 children change in separate areas due to space restrictions and this has been the school policy for a number of years.
- Parents felt that children were developing quicker and the school should perhaps consider separating the children earlier.

### **Pen Licence**

- A question was asked in terms of when children get their pen licence as there are still children in Year 4 that have still not yet got their licence and are getting upset at home.
- Mrs Waring stated that children had to achieve a certain level of handwriting as per government guidelines but would investigate why Year 4 children had not yet reached this level and when they could start to write in pen. **(ACTION – Mrs Waring)**

### **Class Sizes**

- It was confirmed that Year 3 would be split into 3 classes for 4 days per week from September.

### **Next Meeting**

- TBA