

Minutes of the PTA Committee Meeting – 27th January 2016

Present: Shiree Allen, Kevin Antao, Stina Hokby (minutes), Eleanor White, Ed Somer, Gemma Murray, Helen Branch, Catherine Banfield, Mary Everard, Sophie le Bihan, Sonia Johnson, Richard Newsome, Bernice Warwick, Jeanette Brumby

Apologies: Clair Ross, Liz Baldwin, Marion Colledge, Lorna Hardless, John Reynolds, Kim Clarke, Rachel Tyndall, Rachel Parfitt, Emma Rowsell, Yvette Hustler

1. Nominations for the vacant committee positions

SA explained that Clair Ross has decided to step down from the post as Chair because of personal reasons and that the PTA therefore needed a new Chair. SA explained that she would be happy to take on the role as Chair for the rest of the year, providing continuity and working alongside a new vice-chair. Sophie le Bihan, with a son in 1H, expressed interest in the role and Shiree Allen was unanimously elected Chair and Sophie unanimously elected Vice-Chair.

SA thanked Clair for the past year and a half, for her immense dedication and hard work.

There is still a position open for a second Secretary to help our current Secretary. No one stepped forward for this role and the Committee will keep advertising.

SA also introduced the idea of a special Fundraising group that could take some of the load related to organising events off the Committee members and spreading the load of the work between more people. This was generally positively received and it was agreed to test this out to see if there would be any interest from people in joining this group.

2. Treasurer's report

KA summarised the key incomings and outgoings since the last meeting. A summary is attached to these notes. We have a healthy surplus of funds available to the PTA, with the balance currently being just over £23k. Taking into account the pending grants and payments (for already agreed playground funding and £3k set aside for the back garden project) the available funds are just over £17k.

There was a discussion about the need to start spending this money now, to make sure all year groups (particularly those in year 6 who are leaving the school after this school year) benefit from the funds raised. SH and SA pointed out that in the previous years the PTA has spent approximately as much as it has raised.

3. Landscaping of the back garden

SA gave a short overview of the work proposed and explained that she has been getting quotes for the work from a voluntary organisation, TCV. The committee still need to meet with the School leadership to talk through the proposed work, after which more precise quotes and drawings can be obtained.

As the scope of works is still not completely clear, it is difficult to get an overview of the costs and realistic implementation of the project.

JB reiterated that the school is very positive to the idea of developing the back garden as this could take some pressure of the playgrounds at playtime, but that the school will need to work through the details with the PTA.

- **Actions: SA to set up a meeting with the school leadership to go through the proposals, with the aim to have some more concrete plans and costing to present at the next PTA committee meeting. JB to make sure the meeting happen as soon as possible.**

4. *Other spending requests*

A number of funder requests were presented and debated:

GM asked for £500 to support a farewell event for the nursery before it closes. GM will consult nursery parents but thought that a Fun Day might be a popular idea. It was agreed this was a nice gesture given the role the nursery has played for many years and the funding was agreed.

JB has been investigating the potential of getting a 16 seater minibus to be used for Partnership learning and to facilitate outings for the children. This would be co-funded with Hasteltine School and Jeanette was looking for £11,500 from Fairlawn PTA. Yearly running costs would be covered by the school budget; the funding request would cover half the buying cost.

There was a long discussion about the potential benefits of a minibus with several people expressing concern that it would not benefit all children as much. JB explained that it would mainly be used for Partnership learning during school time and clarified that all children and year groups would benefit.

There was agreement in principal to pursue this idea, subject to presentation of a more detailed description of the typical use over the school week and available funds. It was agreed that the back garden project would be prioritised over the minibus for funding at this stage. Given the current healthy bank balance it might be possible to support both.

Kim Clarke had emailed over a funding request for £1,500 to cover half the cost of renting out the East Dulwich Picture house for screening of the children's' animation work during the summer term. JB explained that all classes will be working on a short animation as part of a school wide project. It was agreed it would be a great opportunity for the children to see their work on a large screen and funding of £1,500 was agreed.

Haydon Powell had been in contact with KA about funding for re-painting of the lines on the KS2 playground. This would enable him to run a wider range of activities. KA believed the costs to be around £600. There was agreement to support this, subject to more definitive information about the cost.

SA mentioned that two parents had been queried about the chickens, and if the PTA would cover the cost of buying mew chickens for the school. JB said that the buying costs was not the reason the school does not currently keep chickens, but rather that commitment is needed from a group of parents to share the work of looking after the chickens during the holidays.

- **Action: Jeanette to present a breakdown of the intended use of the Minibus over a typical school week at the next PTA committee meeting**
- **Action: KA to ask Haydon Powell to get a quote for painting of lines on the playground**

5. *Next meeting*

The next meeting will take place on 2nd March at 7:30 in the school hall.

6. *AOB*

SJ suggested the 21 May as a date for the PTA Quiz. This was agreed. SJ had been in asked by Helen Thorn (2M) about Helen and her comedy partner doing a Scummy Mummy set during the Quiz night. SJ asked if she should take this up or whether if it should be a separate event. It was agreed it would be fun to incorporate it in the Quiz and for Sonia to go ahead and organise that.

END