

## Minutes of PTA Meeting on Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 3.15pm

**Attending:** Jen Ingham, Lara Stokes, Lisa Guppy, Irene Conway, Allison Hood, Nancy Upton, Emma Dadson, Liz Dale, Jessica Evans, Sonia Awan, Ann-Marie Wortley, Rosalind Owen, Joy Holgate, Simon Bushell, Hilma Lindqvist

**Apologies:** Sophie Heard, Emily Ashley, Tata Chanturidze

**Documents tabled:** Agenda and Minutes from previous meeting (13 May)

### 1. Welcome/Apologies

Welcome from the new Co-Chairs, Jen and Lara.

### 2. Previous Minutes

We reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and discussed:

- **Cheque signing.** This will be organised in due course, but we are waiting for the new treasurer, so as to make the changes in one process as Alex is also stepping down. If anyone knows someone who would be interested in the Treasurer role, please let Jen or Lara know.  
**Action: Jen and Lara to organise new signatories at bank once new treasurer is found.**
- **Options for fundraising.** Voting process? Irene has talked to the architect regarding the triangle area and the blue courtyard. The school is waiting for the architect to do drawings. Once that happens, there will be enough information to provide to the parents to enable a voting process to occur to choose which option the parents would like the PTA to contribute to. Until then, there is not really enough information to give people so that they can work out which option is best. The school will do both things but is unsure to what extent. It seems more likely that the courtyard will occur first as the redevelopment of the bridge and therefore the transfer of the triangle of land is postponed, until maybe February? It is out of the school's control – there is some political negotiating – there are 2 bridges near Hinksey which need disabled access and the bridge near Phil & Jim's is being used as negotiating point to get that access. It is likely that the drawings will contain various options and costings. The Blue courtyard needs an update, partly due to new free school meals program. Currently, the school has capacity for all to eat in school but the issue is the time it takes to get children through to servings free school meals. If the Blue courtyard is updated to become all-weather, that will make things better.  
**Action: Irene to advise Jen and Lara when drawings are available and there is enough information to enable a vote.**
- **The Anchor** – The proposal is for the Anchor to do afternoon/evening for the school. 25% of the funds will go to PTA and 75% to them. We will advertise to parents. The timing has been pushed back to September. Proposed costings are £15 for adults and £7 for children. The time is to be 4pm to 6pm. Tickets will be bought through the Anchor, so they know who is committed in terms of catering and numbers. There is a max number of 50.  
**Action: Lara and Jen follow up in holidays so it can be a big social event in first term. If any one has thoughts, let Lara and Jen know. They will also check on whether ticket is per person or family.**

### 3. Nurture Shed update

During Summer the work to update the nurture shed should be started and finished. Mr Jones is doing the work in holidays with electrician.

Irene gave an update and summary of nurture shed. It is located on pink play area, but was delays in being able to use it as litigation with supplier relating to assembly issues and damage to astroturf. That has now been resolved and the shed is to be remediated - electricity, cladding, verandah and ramp. The idea is a quiet area for children during breaks, a place to recover if injured or hurt and an area that can be used for group or individual work during the school day.

PTA is providing money to help make this work happen. We need to organise better communication between meeting and business manager so know if money paid or not.

**Action: Irene, Jen and Lara to discuss? Perhaps Karen can come to meetings?**

#### **4. Netball Facilities/More Sport at P&J/Mum's Sport Night (like the Dad's footy?)**

There have been requests via parents for netball and a taster session was organised on Monday. It is proposed to offer netball as a club in September, depending on whether there is space and sufficient numbers to be economic.

Does netball have to be staffed by members of staff? Jess has taken the initiative to help start up the netball club and she is happy to assist but she has not been required so far.

Irene advised that at the moment in school during PE lessons the children focus on developing skills rather than actual games. Irene noted that the school is considering an idea of having perhaps 4 houses? With intra-school games between the houses.

Mums and Netball? We could create a club for any interested mums. Maybe challenge year 6? Volleyball posts could also be option.

Do we have posts? If need new posts will PTA pay? £130 each is estimate. There is also the question of storage for the posts. There is a set fee for hire of the grounds. The Dad's football pay a hire charge.

**Action: Jen and Lara and Irene to look at the current posts and their condition and the storage. Jen and Lara and Jess will look at advertising idea of Mums Netball club.**

#### **5. Mathletics Subscription for 2014/2015**

Simon Bushell attended the meeting to give feedback about the Mathletics subscription over the last year. Simon is one of the Year 6 teachers and is the Maths Coordinator for school. In general Simon's comments are:

- It is a really nice product in many ways, but are we getting the best value for money? There are similar packages, which are cheaper.
- Usage is mixed. Simon produced reports regarding usage of each of the years and the school as a whole and when you drill down, it is not as much use as it seems.
- EYU it is seen as more of a game. Yr 1 more sign on and more usage.
- Yr 6 - one class slightly higher.
- Some snowball effect, some use it and then tell friends and they use it etc.
- Yr 6 comments were that there are better games to play on game front. They would rather do maths as homework and then do game, prefer not to integrate the two. Also is quite easy.
- Usage generally starts off high but then falls away.
- Is it value for money? Because it seems some children interested and others not.
- One of the comparison packages is MyMaths, produced by OUP. It is used in other schools and Cherwell High School uses it. It is more of a homework link. Less of a game, more of maths package. £250 for unlimited usage.
- Ann-Marie advised that she had broken her class up into 2 groups and Mathletics is slightly clunky to use to set homework and therefore, you did not use it as often as you could.
- The questions was asked: Is it good way to set homework?
- Simon advised that it is not something you can teach from.

Comments from the group: Perhaps it could be offered to just one year group or maybe two and then parents could subscribe on their own. That would be cheaper.

Simon's view is he thinks a better use of money would be MyMaths.

**Action: Simon to meet with OUP in September to discuss Numicon and MyMaths. The school will report back to PTA prior to renewal of Mathletics in October to consider whether to change programs. General consensus is to spend money to support program teachers want.**

A vote was taken and unanimously agreed that the PTA supports the idea of a maths program as selected by the teachers after further research on which program is the best.

## 6. New Treasurer Needed

As mentioned, we are still looking for a new treasurer, please spread the word.

## 7. Event Organization/Planning Calendar for 2014/2015

- The Anchor evening will be early September.
- PTA meeting 10 September 2014
- Curriculum evenings. Happening quite early. Well done to the school, we much appreciate the earlier timings:
  - 10 September for Year 1 and Year 2.
  - 17<sup>th</sup> September for Year 4, Year 6 and EYU. Also AGM for PTA.
  - 18<sup>th</sup> September for Year 3 and Year 5

- Event planning – we need to talk about events that are usually done eg Calendar, NNS, bazaar, quiz. Should we do auction? Often only done every 18 months. This will be something to include on the agenda for the first meeting in Sept.

**Action: Agenda item for first meeting on 10 September is to discuss PTA events for the year and plan calendar. Jen and Lara to consider in the meantime.**

- Auction was October last year. Maybe international evening in October? First 2 meetings and AGM would be in first 3 weeks.

**Action: Any parents with ideas, please email to PTA or direct to Jen and Lara.**

## 8. Handover of Roles

Something the PTA would like to implement is that if you have ever organised or run an event, we need you to be available to coach or hand over to the new person. It would be great if the outgoing event organiser can be available to answer any questions, provide assistance and even run the last event on a shared basis. This means that the new person has someone to help them and they are not thrown in at the deep end. This also applies to parent reps, please remember to be available to hand over. In relation to parent reps, it is more valid for EYU, but applies to anyone.

## 9. Welcome Pack from PTA, class list

Jen and Lara have written welcome pack to hand out to all new parents. Irene mentioned that the pack is excellent - reads really well and looks amazing.

- We discussed colour printing and thought it would be a good use of PTA funds.
- The pack includes a consent form, which is a way to get new parents on the list before they even start at the school.
- We will send the pack as a pdf to the rest of the school.
- Maybe we can look at sending the consent form as a google form or similar so that it does not need to be signed.
- It is a universal form for all parents and we hope to get all parents information.

## 10. Tuck Shop

Lara confirmed that there had been concerns raised by various parents. Jen and Lara tried to respond. It was noted the tuck shop had moved to the hall.

Irene confirmed:

- The Tuck Shop is set up from Student Council.
- They have had a lot of fun.

- Initially the idea was to have a morning healthy snacks and in the afternoons, less so.
- It is difficult to judge healthy. Therefore, it was decided not to do a morning snack and to do small snacks.
- Irene has had lots of feedback, including lots of positive feedback too.
- It has been moved to the hall and now it is off the beaten track, which should help in being able to say “no” as a parent.
- Student council are doing an evaluation sheet.
- It has been a mini enterprise project – they have worked out prices, ensured that they were low so as to be affordable but also to cover their costs and have a margin.
- There is a goal to purchase a sound deck system to be used for disco’s but we are not sure if reached goal.
- Idea stops at end of term.
- Whole point is for them to think.
- It has been a learning experience.
- Tuckshop might be better without food or combination of food and other items eg pens, pencils etc. It is always difficult as then don’t want to sell rubbish.

Parental point of view - what was it, how long, why doing it? Needed further information as it just seemed to appear and then keep on going. The newsletter response was very helpful.

## **11. Other business**

A big thank you to the PTA for the Forest School money from Hilma Lindqvist. The waterproofs are being ordered and she hopes to have them by September.

Judy Jackson also wished to thank everyone very much for the scrapbook. She loves the pottery teapot and American Kisses, but wanted to say thank you very much from the bottom of her heart, for the scrapbook.

## **12. Dates for your diary**

See item 7.

**Next meeting -10 September 2014.**