

Parent Council Minutes 9 March 2016

Present: Susie Bagnall, Claire Whyles, Simon Bridson-Jones (Parent governor), Lucy Till-Awny (Liffey), Ben Willmore (Yangtze), Becca Vallins (Limpopo/Amazon), Sarah Rae (Pangani), Chris Hays (Thames), Melissa Hutcheson (Haro), Paolo Ferrari (Congo)

Apologies: Ben Haydon (Parent governor), Megan Douthwaite (Seine), Barbara Sacks-Singer (Garry/Darling)

Head teacher's report

- (1) *Budget:* Mrs Bagnall is very concerned about the budget next year. The school had hoped to increase the number of upper key stage 2 classes from three to four in September, but this is looking increasingly unlikely. Also Forest School can only continue next academic year if we can get a grant or parents pay. Parents agreed to form a working party to look at fundraising options for Forest School; Megan Douthwaite is already working on a grant application for us. The budget was going to be tight any way because the school has to pay for more and more that was previously provided by the local authority. However, six children are due to leave Year 4 at the end of the summer, and numbers for EYFS next year are likely to be low because of a dip in numbers across the county which will also have a serious impact on the school budget. Staff are considering different models for Year 5/6 next year if we have to stick with three classes for one more year.
- (2) *Yenworthy:* Positive feedback, will return.
- (3) *Grounds:* Diocesan funding for developing Swan class confirmed, work will commence next term. The contractors have agreed that the Playground surface is faulty, will be fixed over the summer.

Parents' issues

- (1) *Toilets:* The caretaker has raised with the cleaning contractors that they must notify school in advance if toilet paper is running low so that we don't run out. Children will be reminded to flush loos and leave them as they want to find them. The school will make sure they are stocked, cleaned and checked regularly. Will also look into improving facilities: put some clouded glass on the toilets with windows.
- (2) *School dinner complaints:* School agree with concerns and encourage parents to email directly to Jo.baldwin@carillion.com. Parents have sent some complaints, haven't heard back after ~1 week. Supplier is Carillion, which is now using Food and More rather than Food with Thought. We have some choice of supplier but Carillion is the largest and others likely have similar issues. Will check on Friday option of vegetarian meal with chips. Mrs Whyles will run a poll with the children to send to Carillion.
- (3) *Dinner menu:* Weekly menu not always up to date. If this continues to happen. Please contact office with the location on the website of the out of date menu, because this may be because they are missing a link on the web. Standard Carillion menu is not always accurate but is available in the wall pockets in reception.
- (4) *Ebenezers after school club:* Recent changes to staff. SB was meeting line manager once a month, but manager has left. New line manager followed standard procedures with recent incidents. New site manager Roxy has been assigned to be on site frequently to increase

oversight. SB will meet with Roxy, please contact SB or Roxy to feed back issues. Mrs Bagnall and Mrs Whyles will increase the level of times they pass through the club during sessions and will raise any issues they see.

- (5) *Playtime*: Skippy Jim to come in to give children ideas for using new skipping ropes. If anyone is willing to organize a skipping club that would be welcome. Skippy Jim comes from too far (Swindon) to offer a regular club, SR to ask Mr Leslie ask Skippy Jim if he can recommend anyone locally.
- (6) *Visit Protocol*: there has been a further instance of children's names going on the whiteboard when teachers are waiting for permission slips. Parents are unhappy that this gives the impression they have not paid and upsets children. Mrs Bagnall has spoken to the teacher in question who was not present at the staff meeting when this was raised previously.
- (7) *Curriculum*: Working to produce graphics to inform parents about the curriculum. Will put on web site. Planning to get governors more involved in broader curriculum subjects, since previously focus has been on core subjects to address Ofsted issues.
- (8) *Year 5 outings*: Previous complaints that there were too many, now a complaint that there are not enough. This suggests that this should not change too much.
- (9) *Web site*: Have added information on how to sign up for breakfast club and after-school club.
- (10) *MyMaths*: Will evaluate toward the end of next term. Mathletics is considerably more expensive, would need to look into alternative funding.
- (11) *KS2 snacks*: Tuck shop considered unviable. TAs were asked about alternative foods to fruits and vegetables; this is felt to be a slippery slope. If parents are out of fresh fruits and vegetables, they can send dried fruits. Since this keeps it can always be used as a backup option.
- (12) *Improving teaching for most able*: The school is committed to providing an appropriate level of challenge to all children including the academically highest achieving. This is included in the School Improvement Plan. Mrs Horner is responsible for managing provision for the most academically high achieving children, parents can speak to her about their concerns.
- (13) *Cake sales*: Too many sales recently due to the Clean for the Queen. Not expected to have more cake sales in addition to SESA cake sales.
- (14) *Playtime supervision*: A recent case reported where TAs were reported to not paying sufficient attention when an incident occurred. This case is believed to be isolated and will be raised with staff.
- (15) *Childline*: Children have been informed that this is meant for cases where the children feel they don't have another adult to talk to.