



## Parent Voice Meeting

Run by parents, for parents

### Minutes from Parent Voice meeting (7pm): Wednesday 8 February 2017

#### Attendees:

Parents – 11

Governors - 2 (of whom are also parents)

#### Agenda:

1. Review of minutes from previous meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Brunswick photo's class or group photo's
4. Feedback on the parent reading sessions
5. School Trends price increase
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

#### Review of minutes from previous meeting

The previous minutes were agreed as a true representation of the meeting.

#### Matters arising

With regard to the section in the previous minutes about wearing goggles for swimming lessons, a parent enquired on the PV Facebook page if a decision had been made about wearing goggles as this was not clear in the minutes. School policy states:

As in the NCC swimming guidance to schools goggles are not permitted unless for medical reasons. These should be put in writing to the head teacher and passed on to the NCC swimming teacher. These are the rules of the swimming pool to which we are required to conform.

#### Brunswick Photos: Class or Group Photos

It is almost time for the yearly class photos to be taken and the Group reviewed a number of different group styles with a view to deciding which one to choose. A firm favourite was the tradition 'in rows' shot but the clear winning style was a collection of individual snapshots which were presented in a grid. The group felt that these captured the individual characters of the children rather than a styled or posed photo. It was also noted, however, that the example didn't show the teacher of the class and the Group agreed that the teacher must be included in the group photo.

It was also agreed that the photos will be taken before the Easter break so that the teachers who are leaving can be in the class group photos.

## **Feedback from Parent Reading Sessions**

The Parents in the Group who took part in the Parent Reading Sessions thought these were very good and enjoyed reading to the children. However, the Teachers may have felt this was a bit disruptive and quite stressful to incorporate this into the day's schedule. It was also felt that the Reading Sessions were more beneficial for KS1 children and KS2 would benefit from different interaction from parents. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to continue with this but perhaps explore opportunities to engage with the children in the school day. Some ideas were perhaps for a specific project, or a theme or like in previous years, Art day.

## **School Trends price increase**

The School asked the Chair to circulate for discussion the lists showing the current school uniform prices from School Trends and the increased prices which comes into force on 1 March 2017. The Group felt that the 40% increase was far too high and that the school should look at other suppliers again, similar to a previous exercise which took place a year ago. Feedback about School Trends has been poor, especially the length of time for delivery of items purchased.

The Chair will ask the school to set up a meeting with other suppliers to view other options.

[POST MEETING NOTE: The School office confirmed we had been given incorrect information by School Trends and in fact the increase would only be in the region of 50p per item. With this in mind, the Group will discuss this item again at the next meeting with a view to deciding whether to invite other suppliers to provide samples of their products, prices and delivery information.]

## **Any Other Business**

### **Chairing meetings**

The Group discussed chairing the meetings and how this is quite a daunting and time-consuming task. It is difficult to find individuals who can chair both morning and evening meetings and concerns were raised about the issues that might occur when trying to make decisions or put forward suggestions to the school if the morning and evening meetings have different ideas and opinions.

The amount of effort the Chair needs to put into the meetings has been unanticipated as there is a lot of organisation required. At this point the Chair thanked Vanessa Tear for producing the template agenda, notes and the Guide for the Chair which she prepared when she chaired the meeting.

It was also flagged that attendance at the morning meeting has been dwindling and the Group suggested having only one meeting in the evening. There was also a suggestion that the meeting be held off school premises as Mr Allen's availability in the evenings is also a factor to be considered when setting the dates of the meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place in Parsons Hall with the venue of the meetings to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Delays by the school circulating details about meetings and agenda were also flagged as a concern as there isn't enough time for parents who can't attend the meetings to respond to agenda items if appropriate. Although, it was noted that parents are continuing to message the PV Facebook page and speak with active Group members with questions for the Group and some of these are mentioned below.

It was suggested that the next meeting is arranged at the current Group meeting and added to the notes to be circulated once approved by the School.

### **Questions/queries from parents**

1. A suggestion to create more space in the cloakrooms between the pegs as they are too close together. This might be difficult due to the lunch trolleys also being kept there. Is there somewhere else the trolleys can go to make another row of pegs?
2. A suggestion that the Y1/Y2 Playground is exclusively for children in these years. It was noted that football is organised and played on this playground and all classes are able to take part so unfortunately the Group agreed that this suggestion was not possible. However, it was agreed that a quiet space for children who are anxious or shy around older children or large groups should be available. It was agreed that the Buddy system for new Foundation pupils works very well but when these children progress to Y1 some felt lost as their 'Buddy' was no longer at the school.
3. It was suggested that more attention is paid to children who are struggling at school than to those children who are performing as they should. That positive reinforcement should be adopted for good effort. The Group confirmed that all children are treated equally and merits and individual awards for good effort are used by all classes.
4. The school should be promoting a healthy lifestyle by letting children play outside when it is raining. The Group confirmed that this does happen however children who do not have appropriate wet weather clothing/footwear would need to play indoors. School policy states that children should be dressed appropriate for cold/wet weather.
5. Some questions were raised about Mrs Alison's forthcoming visit to Singapore as there was not a lot of details about the purpose of the visit and how this is being funded in the recent letter from School. The Group look forward to feedback from Mrs Alison on her return, what she has learned and how this can be incorporated into the curriculum.

### **Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday 22 March, 7:30, Parsons Hall - Chair: Ben Leeson, Notes: Vanessa Tear