

Parent Voice Meeting

Run by parents, for parents

Minutes from Parent Voice meeting at Parsons Hall Wednesday 21st June 7.30pm.

Chair: Cheryl Stevens

Minute Taker: Madeline Warwick

Attendees: Parents – 6 (including 1 Parent Governor), School Librarian

Agenda:

1. Outline code of conduct
2. Review minutes from last meeting, including Mrs Alison's feedback
3. Maths for parents
4. Sports Day
5. Communication board
6. Kingswood Catering
7. Art week
8. E-Safety
9. Residential trip costings
10. Presentation from Viv, school librarian
11. AOB

Code of conduct

Meeting started with outlining code of conduct which aids meeting to keep discussion on track and progress more efficiently.

Review of minutes

Discussed feedback from previous minutes and some issues arising added to AOB.

Maths for parents

Mrs Alison has fed back that this is going ahead starting September 2017. Parent Voice expressed that this should be a positive addition and volunteered to trial anything on behalf of the school if required in order to make this a success. **Teachers are undergoing initial training on 4th September.**

Sports Day

There was positive feedback with regards to sports day and how it was organised this year, PV attendees thought it was a definite improvement on last year. We felt the ski-type activity was too difficult for KS1 children and not every child got a turn within the allowed time. **Staff agreed with this in their review of activities so it will be changed next year.** It was suggested that a space hopper race and more traditional egg and spoon might be good additions. **The tennis racket and ball/beanbag was a sports variation of egg and spoon this year. We tend to use the equipment we have in school so it doesn't incur any extra costs. Maybe if we could borrow space hoppers?** We discussed that the

current PA system could be improved on and explored different options to perhaps borrow a better one next year and will be happy to discuss this with Mrs Alison as appropriate. **Any suggestions who to borrow a PA system from would be good.**

Board Outside

Ongoing discussion about how issues raised by parents and discussed at parent voice could be better communicated and whether there would be a benefit from having a board outside on an ad hoc basis when we need to make parents aware of a Parent Voice issue.

Kingswood Catering

We had previously discussed how lovely the be our guest dining experience was this academic year and wanted to make sure this was fed back to ensure it was replicated again next year. Mrs Alison is awaiting confirmation that the funding of free school meals are going to continue following the General Election before pursuing this further. **Now after the election we have been told universal infants free school meals will go ahead for the time being.** Once this is confirmed Parent Voice would like to consider how to support the school further to ensure the uptake of school meals is at its optimum for the forthcoming academic year. **We will do a repeat 'be our guest' event in the first term to encourage new parents.**

Art week

Raised issue around the lack of uptake of parents to be included in the art week project. Parent Voice agreed that art week was very important but recruitment of helpers for larger projects possibly needs to be communicated more in advance to accommodate parents willing to help that would need to take time off work or find childcare for preschool children.

E-Safety

Mrs Alison has informed us that although the school cannot budget for the E-Safety presentation again this year, she has found out that Little Harrowden School are holding the session and have yet to fill all their spaces. Parent Voice felt it was a great idea to try and work with other schools to make sure expensive presentations such as this are utilised as much as possible. **We will be repeating the e-safety training for the children in the next academic year. If we can get a good deal with the trainer we would like to offer a parent session too. Will let Parent Voice know if possible so they can promote interest and attendance by parents.**

Residential Trip

Parent Voice were provided with info on 2 options for next years residential, Grendon Hall and the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. 3 days and 2 nights, Grendon £129, Frontier Centre £147. Parent voice are going to look into what you get for your money to ensure parents are getting the best deal. We felt that including transport is too much of additional cost to parents and so should stay local and outline to parents that the trip will not include transport. Parent Voice discussed different ways to offering transport to those who would not be able to get there and these will be discussed with Mrs Alison further. **Thank you for your input. After consulting with staff who will be leading the residential and looking further into activities offered we have decided to go with Grendon in May**

2018. Letters and saving plans have gone out to new Y4 parents so they have chance to spread payments.

School Library and librarian services

A presentation was given by Viv, the new librarian at the school. Parent voice made a few suggestions to Viv especially from the view of KS1 children learning to read. Ideas such as FS children making up a story / book as a class to encourage storytelling and imaginative learning and having year related bookmarks with comprehension questions on to aid parents and children with their learning at home. Viv also spoke about First News, a children's newspaper available in supermarkets such as Tesco. Viv very much enjoyed attending the meeting and is keen to work with PV to promote next year.

AOB

Organised Parent Voice representatives to be present at the foundation stage open evening. Thank you – it was great to share positive parent support with new parents.

Discussed the need to form a 2017/18 plan for key issues that Parent Voice could be positively involved in and how to aid Mrs Alison's vision to try and improve on the communication between parents and teachers.

It has come to the attention of Parent Voice that Nicola Brown chair of FICPS will not be continuing after Christmas and that the group needs some rejuvenation and additional representation. Parent Voice would like to invite Nicola Brown to attend the next Parent voice meeting so we can help communicate the great work they do with parents as early as possible in the next academic year. Good idea.