

Parents Voice Minutes

Meeting 25th & 26th February 2015

(Combined 9am and 7pm)

ATTENDEES

15 x Parents
1 x Governors
1 x Chair of Governors

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes from previous meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Updates – Tapestry and DoJo/Marvellous Me
4. Website Update
 - a. MAID
 - b. Working Group
5. Parent Support Feedback
6. AOB
 - a. SAM Communication

New parents attended so the rules were explained and introductions made.

No guest speaker attended the meeting on this occasion.

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed as a true representation of the meeting and approved.

2. Matters arising

Jo Thom updated everyone that the pilot PEGS parenting toolkit had commenced this week and will run for 7 weeks. If the course is successful and there is sufficient interest, the course may run again for any parent who would like to attend.

3. Updates – Tapestry and Dojo

Tapestry – this is being trialled alongside the existing learning journals in Foundation for a sample. One parent commented on their similar experience with this type of ‘App’ and found it too time consuming in their profession as a teacher.

Dojo / Marvellous Me – Jo Thom discussed her visit to Wollaston Primary School where this DoJo is currently used. Discussed how teachers use it in a variety of way, the teacher sets the ‘App’ up on a tablet and the TA uses the tablet in class. Wollaston feel this system is successful for them. One of our teachers has volunteered to trial it in their classroom at ICPS. Parents were concerned about it being time consuming for the teacher. Parents attending all said that ICPS should be utilising their existing technology (website and dbprimary) first before introducing new technology. Same opinion for Marvellous Me.

ACTION – Jo Thom to inform Mrs Alison of views.

4. Website Update

a. MAID – Maintain, Alter, Include & Discard

The website being updated has been mentioned at a previous meeting and Mrs Alison asked Parent Voice to work through the website under the term of MAID – which categorises desired changes into what parents would like to maintain, alter, include and discard about the current website.

Each heading was discussed and ideas as below suggested:

Maintain

- Policy Page
- Letters Home Page – but to include a this weeks letters section at the top.
- Pictures of Staff (check periodically)
- Lab 13
- Our Work – but to be more up to date.

Alter

- **Diary** – dates as known at the start of the school year and updated regularly. Parents suggested it would be useful to have a Parentmail sent to advise if new dates have been added to the diary. Alternative suggestion is to send out Parentmail mid-month for the following month with all dates of upcoming events. Key issue with the diary was that it was not updated often and didn't always match parent mail information.
- **Separate Forms page** - to include not just policy forms, but forms for trips, raffle tickets etc.
- **DB Primary** – One teacher class still has old pictures to view. Feedback to be given to Mrs Alison. Jo Thom explained only parents can view DB Primary. Games and links don't appear to work on some class pages.
- **Photography** - Pictures on website are very old – suggested using artistic pictures instead or children's artwork on website – gallery of artwork. Jo Thom advised new photography has been done with a combination of artistic and people shots.

Include

- **Navigation** - need to be able to navigate to everywhere from the Home Page.
- **House Page** – a page to explain what house names mean, colours, what scientist the house is named after – possibly how house teams are doing.
- **SAM Page** – Parent suggested putting attendances by year on page.
- **After School Clubs** – suggestion was to include a table of clubs available in the term, ages for clubs, costs, equipment etc.
- **Sports Page** – a page to advertise upcoming matches ICPS will take part in. Maybe include match reports written by students afterwards – newsletter feel. Agreed a cabinet was required for Trophies – possibly a display area in the new Reception could be arranged.
- **Shop Page** – all items available to buy and costs – perhaps a one page document. Also suggested a size guide l'e age against inches.
- **Video Page** – demonstration videos either by children or teachers on subjects such as maths to aid Parents. – Perhaps suitable for class pages rather than a website page.

- **Recommended Reading** – Maths comprehension, hint/tips, links to Websites etc – class pages
- **Further information** - Information about the buddy system, merits, value beads to be easily accessible without having to delve through policies.
- **Updates re building work** – newsflash. A feature for the next 18 months while work is undertaken.

Discard

- No ideas were brought forward at the evening meeting.

b. Website Working Party

Mrs Alison would like a 'Working Party' to be a part of decisions relating to updating the website. Jo Thom explained a 'Working Party' and how it worked for those that didn't know. The working party will consist of parents, staff and governors. Five parents in total volunteered to join the working party, and will review all ideas above.

5. Parent Support Feedback

Jo Thom updated the meeting with regards to the 'Parent Support Feedback' and more volunteers had come forward which is great news. ICPS want to say a big thank you.

One parent commented about the wording of the questionnaire and felt the second part of the questionnaire was aimed at working parents and that there should have been a column for 'already attend'.

AOB

SAM Communication

Jo Thom explained who SAM is (School Attendance Matters), what he wants to achieve and how SAM has been introduced to the children by the Anti-Bullying ambassadors and via parent mail last term.

ICPS want to make attendance fun, raise its profile. SAM wants to help the children develop this very important life skill early on to help them in later life.

SAM will be rewarding children with pin badges and stickers (along with the existing certificates) and Jo Thom discussed two options.

Parents liked these ideas, but added to them and made suggestions on how to use the stickers and badges as follows:

Pin Badges – awarded three times a year with a special green badge for end of the year. Parents asked if the three badges could be three colours so that children can collect.

Stickers – suggestion is to award these each half term for 100% attendance. Parent Voice liked this idea but wondered if there was a way of rewarding children more frequently, either using stickers, merit points, wall charts or brag books. For example, can ICPS reward children each week if they have been in every day that week?

ACTION – Jo Thom to discuss Parent Voice suggestions with Mrs Alison.

AOB

After School Clubs - A parent questioned if After School Clubs have 'Terms & Conditions', 'Rules & Regulations' or anything similar which the school are aware of. Jo Thom explained that outside companies like Free Style Soccer effectively 'rent' space for their clubs. All agreed that clubs need monitoring for the service they provide to ICPS.

Grendon Trip - A Parent questioned why this trip was not going ahead for Year 2 this year as previous years. Jo Thom to find out and report back at next meeting.

Hot Dinners Census - A parent raised the Census carried out recently and what percentage is needed to keep the funds for hot dinners, it was thought the figure was 87%. The question was asked if the school gained this percentage and Chair reported that the figure was approximately 84%. A parent suggested having a 'Chip Day' for the Census to gain maximum attendance if we needed to do it again.

Explanations - A parent requested that there was more explanation for certain things, especially for Foundation parents such as Muffin day, House allocation for their children etc.

End of Day - A parent reported that certain classes are sometimes late out at the end of the day. Jo Thom suggested that they have a chat with the teacher.

Cake Sale - A parent asked if parents can be made aware (by year group) of what cake sale money is spent on. It is motivating to see how money raised is being spent.

Gold Award - A parent mentioned not receiving a Gold Award text. Could a paper invite be sent out and if no response from parent, this is followed up with a text? Jo Thom suggested talking to the office to make sure phone numbers are current and up to date.

Parents Evening - Parents suggested alternative booking systems. A suggestion was sending a slip home, giving parents the chance to tick a preferred time, so that school can book and allocate slots.

Another parent offered to find out what online tool her school uses (a teacher).

END