

Minutes from HCJS Parent Council meeting Monday 11th July 2017

Present:

- Andy Leach (Headteacher)
- Sam (School Secretary)
- Tracey White (Gov Rep)
- Laura Richards-Gray (Chair)
- Angie Goldsmith
- Kate Ashby
- Verity Priest
- Sarah Birkby

Apologies:

- Claire Croft.

Minutes and Matters arising:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and the following points raised -

Use of Social Media for Communication

- Weekly reminders for parents regarding forthcoming calendar dates are being added via facebook. Some positive comments from parents have been received regarding this.

Parent Help

A register of parents who would like to help (e.g. with reading, cooker, etc) is to be re-launched and will commence at the end of this term/Sept 2017. Information regarding this will be in the 1st newsletter back in September. Any parents who wish to be considered for this can email Andy/Sam. Parents can volunteer – they do not need to be DBS checked. The intention is to set up a register of skills – gardeners, electricians, etc.

Online systems

“Powerpay” – the online cash system – has gone live as of June 2017. Some positive feedback received regarding this.

Parent Council body

It was agreed the existing PC personnel will continue for the next term.

Updates from AL on progress:

- Old school uniform – The old uniform can be donated at school; it will then be forwarded to a charity in Africa. Parent of year 3 child (Edward) has links with a charity and will be collecting the uniform to send to an African school which will hopefully be able to kit the entire school out with a uniform. The old uniform will be collected at the beginning of next term; parents are asked to remove the names from it.
- This will be the last year where school will finish at 1.30pm at the end of term. Next year's term dates will be amended. A different “last day of term” to be introduced.
- Sept 2017 – Staff will be out on the playground at the end of the day to chat to parents.
- An information evening advising parents how they can help with homework is to be set up from Sept 2017. Thereafter, termly information sessions will be in place.
- New swipe doors to be put in place to enhance security. Staff will be required to wear ID badges. This will hopefully be in place in the next 6 months.

- A photo board showing all staff will be in place for Sept 2017.

Consultation Feedback:

Clubs and communication re clubs.

Communication.

- Lots of advertising re external club (Craft in the cafe). The suggestion was put forward that a joint email could be sent, showing both Craft in the cafe and Jazzercise.
- More after school clubs required for girls sports.
- Year 6 – clubs are easy to find; for Year 4 there is not so much choice.
- Non-team sports are not being offered as a club.
- Cancellation of clubs on the day – an email is sent advising parents the club has been cancelled. However, parents (working parents in particular) felt this was too short notice to make alternative arrangements.
- There needs to be a balance of clubs for different age groups, and for boys and girls.
- Art club – This is always full, and difficult for any new members to join. AL reported that WEF Sept 2017, there will be more subject specialism's, drawing on staffs strengths. Mrs Duncan will be working towards the arts award wef Sept 2017.
- Lunchtime clubs – these are difficult for staff and children to manage. Children often forget to go. The morning “huddle” will remind teachers to let those children attending lunchtime clubs to go.
- A request for more clubs other than sports clubs.
- School Band. There haven't been any concerts this term. AL reported that things are happening with music – Miss Adamson will be taking whole class music lessons. She has applied for “Young voices” at the O2 - a club will be set up for children taking part in this. Mr Michener will be taking Ukulele classes, and will run a recorder class.
- A question was raised as to whether there could be more after school clubs, and if they could be subsidised, or free.
- A thank you to all staff who give up their time to run the school clubs.

Other feedback.

- Angela Matthews (Local Authority Governor) gave feedback to those present regarding progress to date on the travel plan. Angela highlighted the valuable work the travel plan has achieved so far – e.g. 2008 - funds for cycle rack cover, 2012 - cycle path opened in the park, 2012 – money for Zebra crossing, opened in 2017. Angela has two more years as a Governor; thereafter a new person will need to be appointed to take over the travel plan policy. It was agreed that the PC committee may be able to help source a suitable candidate to take over. There will be a detailed section on the website written by Angela explaining to parents the work of the travel plan committee.
- Parents loved the Italian themed day, and would welcome the opportunity to attend an event such as this each term.
- PTA meetings to be attended by Andy.
- A suggestion was put forward that parents could make a minimum donation to the school if they are unable to attend the PTA meetings.
- No mention in the newsletter of the District sports event the school took part in. AL advised that this had been celebrated with the children in school.
- During the last school year, it was noted that there were no parent assemblies. AL advised that he has written the school development plan. In this he has written that parents will be invited to at least 2 events per year.

A.O.B:

- Class swap. Some anxiety from parents regarding the “class swap” effective from Sept 2017. Year 5 parents particularly anxious, due to pressure of 11+ in September, and how a new class might unsettle their child at such a crucial time. AL has talked to each class, and will speak to any parent/child who is concerned about it. It was discussed and agreed that AL will write to the Year 5 parents, explaining the reasons for introducing the class swap. The school viewed the “class swap” as a positive experience for the child. The dynamics of each classroom will change and this will give the children the opportunity to assess where they are. It will also prepare Year 6 for the next step in their learning journey. AL reported that the class swap will happen this year, and going forward there will be three options – 1 – the school continues with it, 2 – it doesn’t work and therefore the school reverts back, 3 – just the upper school take part in the class swap. It is a school policy and will be considered at the end of the academic year. Teachers at HCJS feel it is a good idea and the policy has the Governors support. The teachers who know the children have put together the classes.
- Topic for discussion next time: TBC

Next Meeting:

- Laura to suggest some dates to AL. Time to be confirmed. If any current PC personnel wish to resign before the start of the new academic year, please let Sam know.
- AL advised that lots of good things have developed from the PC meetings, and that progress had been made.