

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 27th September 2016

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Location: Bowmansgreen Primary School – Staff room

Attendees

Parents: Lee David; Claire Nikitas; Julia Brent; Lisa Pearson; Susan Nickolds; Sam Gentleman; Mark Castle; Julie Hudson; Sarah Klinger; Lisa Smith; Rob Webb

Governors: Abigail Bude

School: Ms A Lippa (Headteacher)

Apologies for absence: Rav Dighe; Justyna Gorska

Agenda

- Welcome and review of actions from previous meeting
- Items raised by Parent Council:
 - School PR
 - South Hertfordshire Children's University
- Items raised by School:
 - Reading
 - Homework - Maths
- Feedback items from parents:
 - Safety around school gates
 - Sports Day
 - Afterschool clubs
 - Bullying
 - Social media / e-safety
- A.O.B.
- Summary of agreed actions

Points Noted

Review of Actions from previous meeting

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed. It was agreed that defibrillator information would be forwarded to Ms Lippa. All other actions could be closed.

Items raised by Parent Council:

- **School PR**

There was some discussion on school PR and communication. Ideas were shared on ways the school could communicate with parents and externally. For example: at celebration assemblies, Friday breakfast clubs, articles in the local press, headteacher reports in the local magazine, school leadership team presence at school gates. It was noted that Mark Castle is leading the Parent Council PR group and could set up a working party.

- **South Hertfordshire Children's University**

It was noted the school has registered interest in signing up to the scheme and is now waiting to receive a call back with further information.

Items raised by school

- **Reading**

There was discussion on reading and support from parents/carers. Ms Lippa provided an update on reading volunteers in school, which was recently advertised in the school newsletter. The parent council suggested that the school run a session for parents/carers on how to improve your child's literacy through reading. There was positive feedback on ways the school has encouraged reading, such as Reading Champions (for Reception). It was noted that awarding free reading books was very expensive, so the parent council suggested using other awards (e.g. time on bouncy castle)

- **Homework – Maths**

Ms Lippa advised that the new maths online homework tool had tutorials which parents could watch, and they are hopeful this will help parents understand the curriculum. It was noted that some direction on how parents could best support homework would be useful.

Feedback items from parents:

- **Safety around school gates**

Issues concerning traffic and parking outside the main school entrance (Telford Road / Manor Road) were discussed. It was noted that we want to support the independence of older pupils to walk to school without adults, but need to be confident that their route to school is safe. Ms Lippa plans to invite the new PCSO into the school to get some advice.

- **Sports Day**

It was noted that some feedback had been received about the layout of sports day as a whole school event this year. The parent council offered to share parental views closer to the time of next year's sports day to help support this event. It was noted that good feedback had been received on the Family Fun morning this year.

- **Afterschool clubs**

It was noted that afterschool club options were communicated at the start of term. It was requested, if possible, to communicate these at the end of the term before. This would benefit the school in gauging interest and planning for the clubs and would benefit parents in having more time to plan afterschool activities, childcare, etc.

- **Bullying**

It was noted that it would be helpful for parents to understand the policy and procedures that are in place for bullying. Bullying is also a Parent View item. Ms Lippa advised that there would be an Anti-bullying week in November. The parent council suggested that the school could use this event as an opportunity to communicate the policy and procedures with parents.

- **Social media / e-saftey**

Ms Lippa noted that e-safety starts in Reception and is a big part of the curriculum.

A.O.B.

- **Parents Evening** – views on using the online booking system were shared by the parent council. All were supportive of the tool.
- **Important school meetings** – it was noted that it would be helpful for parents to be provided with good notice of important meetings to allow time to make arrangements to take time off work, etc. or consideration given to holding these meetings during the evening as well as the day
- **Rucksacks** – it was noted that new school rucksacks are available from PMG schoolwear and that it would be helpful to communicate this in the school newsletter

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 15th November 2016
Time: 7.30pm

Next Meeting – Draft Agenda Items

- Welcome and review of actions from previous meeting
- Items for discussion
 - To be confirmed
- A.O.B.

Action Items

Actions for Parent Council

- Forward defibrillator information to Ms Lippa (Sarah Klinger)