

Minutes Parents' Forum (28.06.17)

Attendees:

*Catalin Bogdan
Jon Read (governor)
Linda Dove
Adrian Smith (governor)
Susan Jarah
Jaqueline Watson
Alice Worth
Natalia Wilkinson
Katrina Rees
Mike Craig (staff)
Jo Couchman
Zoe Lattimer
Alan Davies (staff)*

Discussion:

- Parent forum chair (nominations and voting)

Jon is standing down from parent forum chair following the meeting; this is in part due to the end of his two year term and also due to a conflict of interests with his governor role. Alan thanked him for commitment and acknowledged the impact of the parents' forum.

Nobody has come forward to stand as chair.

Zoe will chair the autumn term meeting and will ask again for a nomination. Jo is also prepared to support and possibly a job share of the role will be considered.

- Dates for next year's meetings

Tuesday 3rd October

Possible move to a termly meeting from this point onwards, or plan in termly meetings and hold additional meetings as required.

AGM of the governing body will be organised and this could be held back-to-back with parent forum to support recruitment and promote involvement. Adrian feels that it is important to talk about the data and even if this is only provisional, since it feels more relevant to present previous year's data early in the academic year. Alan stated that he will be able to present provisional school results but it will be too early to make national comparisons as this will not have been published.

- Items for next year's meetings

Autumn term:

Uniform

House System

Unqualified cover supervisors covering lessons (Katrina)

Lost property

School Improvement Plan & ideas for fundraising/SISA linked to this

*Spring term:
Assessment*

Other ideas:

Transitions

Careers guidance

Quality of homework

Behaviour

Safety & safeguarding

Smoking, drug and alcohol misuse

It was acknowledged that the 100 club will continue into the next academic year and will be promoted again in the new academic year

- *School Uniform Feedback*

Mike summarised what has happened to date regarding uniform, including try on sessions. There has been a lot of positive feedback during these sessions. The girls have largely been positive about the skirts and the boys appeared to be proud to wear the blazer. He has been in touch with many parents regarding financial needs, including mitigating circumstances, and has had discussions regarding parents of children with additional needs. There are still emails coming in but these have been responded to appropriately.

Jo acknowledged the difficulties and complexities of the introduction of the new uniform and shared that she thought the changes to the uniform have been well led by Mike.

Shoes is potentially still an issue. School are considering the issue with children wearing leather vans and this remains a grey area. The school reiterated that it needs to be realistic about what is going to be possible to enforce.

The parents forum was unanimously against children being allowed to wear vans or other soft sole style leather trainers and felt that if any children are allowed to wear these in September then by Christmas this will have spread to many other children within the school.

Parents forum recommend wording of 'no vans, nike, Adidas etc.' – or if it is not possible to name particular brands then to use the wording of 'No soft soles'.

'Spare' school uniform will be provided by the school – including blazers and ties to enable children to consistently be wearing uniform in case of loss, incorrect sizing etc.

Some concerns about misinformation given out regarding shirts for girls by Price and Buckland was also raised.

Susan stated that a working group is in place regarding collection of the old uniform and this will be publicised shortly.

- *Student use of the canteen*

Jo described a number of concerns around the canteen:

- *Queuing style can be a bit 'survival of the fittest'*
- *The different year groups going in at different times did not sustain*
- *Some children are stealing food from the canteen*
- *It is quicker and easier to go and get pizza rather than the healthy food*

Other parents supported that there are similar concerns from their children.

Is the current canteen fit for purpose?

Is the current timetabling fit for purpose – particularly if children are in lessons at the outdoor?

Adrian suggested feedback from the Head boy and girl. This could also be raised at the Year group councils. He suggested that governors could also come and observe a lunchbreak.

Is there perhaps a culture of 'non-whistleblowing' in school? Children are perhaps holding a view that they keep quiet when they see other children stealing, misbehaving etc and this needs to be looked at carefully so that a culture of talking and sharing information is promoted.

School reported that they do carry out bag searches etc and if appropriate this data can be brought to the forum.

Mike also acknowledged the need for school to promote student voice and, from September, this will be much higher on the agenda.

In the past week, Mike has also met with canteen staff to talk to canteen staff about their experiences at lunchtime; the responses to this are expected next week.

Parents have shared concerns about boys smoking in public outside of one leisure. Teachers were witnesses to this but did nothing, the parent phoned the school but was told nothing could be done about it. Other parents reported similar issues with children smoking, misbehaving or showing dangerous behaviour on the roads in school uniform at various locations around the town.

Adrian would like parents phoning in to be logged and will take this further.

Mike recognised this as a problem and acknowledged that this may come down to capacity and how far school's jurisdiction can reach. The school will take follow up where names teachers have been observed to not intervene when seeing children smoking.

It was felt that there is a need for extended respect between pupils, staff and parents. Parents forum recognised that this is a two way process.