



Harrow Lodge Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 2pm

Present

School representatives: Michelle Browne, Lynette Searle

Parent representatives:

Tina Attree-Young, Maxine Birch, Sarah Corless, Lisa Cousins, Lisa Frensham, Amanda Hayward, Serena Lee, Joeleen Lefevre, Erica Ratty, Michelle Stanley, Katy Woodhead

1. Welcome & Apologies

LS welcomed everybody to the meeting.
Apologies for absence were received from Jo Hallel.

2. Election of Chair

- 2.1 It was agreed by the Parent Council that the office of Chair would be for one year only before re-election takes place.
- 2.2 There was only one nomination for Chair and, by a unanimous vote, Amanda Hayward was elected Chair of the Parent Council.

3. Election of Vice Chair

- 3.1 It was agreed by the Parent Council that the office of Vice Chair would be for one year only before re-election takes place.
- 3.2 There was only one nomination for Vice Chair and, by a unanimous vote, Erica Ratty was elected Vice Chair of the Parent Council.

4. Membership of the Parent Council

- 4.1 A membership list was passed around the room for parents to check that their personal contact details were correct.
- 4.2 There are some classes without parental representation. LS asked if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested in joining the Parent Council, please put their name forward.

5. Healthy School

- 5.1 The failure of Treat Friday was discussed. On the first occasion, parents went overboard with the quantity of treats they provided in their child's packed lunch. Treats were also being eaten during morning break which resulted in the pupils being unteachable due to the amount of sugar consumed. On the second occasion, the amount of treats brought into school was not quite as bad but still failed to comply to the rules.

5.2 One alternative idea suggested was to call it “Swap Friday” instead of “Treat Friday” which would indicate that only one or two usual items could be swapped i.e. crisps instead of crackers, chocolate flavoured cake instead of plain. Another suggestion, which may help non-English speaking parents, was to send out a simplified letter, which could include some photos of acceptable alternatives.

5.3 The parents at the meeting were in agreement that we should try Treat/Swap Friday one more time in the hope that parents will adhere to the rules and make it understood that, unless they do, this privilege will be removed.

ACTION: LS (letter with photos)

5.4 Most of the parents at the meeting were under the impression that fruit and vegetables were the only snacks allowed at playtime. However, it was agreed that playtime snacks should remain as they are.

6. **School Uniform**

6.1 Many parents have found the quality of the jumpers/cardigans quite poor, with the colour fading, losing shape/stretching and stitching coming undone.

6.2 AH advised that the PTA are looking for another supplier. She said she has compared our uniform prices to those at other local schools and we are the cheapest, even for products like bags and coats that come from the same suppliers as other schools. Other schools must be making a profit from their sales. AH was clear that we make no profit whatsoever from our sales.

6.3 The decision needs to be made whether we want better quality uniform but pay higher prices. It was suggested that, maybe, we could offer economy uniform and premium uniform but this would not be a viable option owing to the amount of work it would involve and the differentiation between pupils wearing the different quality uniform.

6.4 AH will advise the council once the PTA has met with other suppliers.

7. **Playground Improvements**

7.1 Plans for the proposed playground improvements were circulated. An approximate cost for all the work we would like done is £200k. Included within this cost is a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which isn't shown in the plans.

7.2 The PTA are looking for different ways to get funding but some, including Gofundme, would be down to the school to initiate.

- 7.3 It was felt that, in order to help pupils learn to develop respect for school property, we should involve them in the fundraising effort. A pack showing our plans will be put together, which could include letters from the pupils. These packs will be sent out to local companies and businesses asking for donations to our cause.
- 7.4 A noticeboard will be erected in a prominent position to keep parents and pupils up to date with how the fundraising is progressing.
- 7.5 Rather than waiting for the total amount to be raised before starting the work, parents thought it a good idea that we have smaller targets to work towards so that enthusiasm for the project does not wane.

ACTION: LS/AH (gofundme/Lottery/noticeboard)

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 Supervision of children at lunchtime was brought up. Unfortunately, we have been a couple of midday supervisors short recently due to sickness which puts pressure on the rest of them. It was decided that the provision and placement of supervision would be looked at with a view to finding a better solution.

ACTION: LS

- 8.2 Another parent queried why the girls' football club is being cancelled due to SATs when the boy's football is not.

ACTION: LS

- 8.3 LS advised that we had had 70 responses via Parentview following the Parents' Evening recently, 17 of which would not recommend this school to other parents. Parents at the meeting were asked to try and find out who these parents are as LS would like to meet with them to find out why they wouldn't recommend the school so that improvements can be made in order to change that opinion.

- 8.4 There have also been some negative reviews left on Google from children as well as one adult who came here 25 years ago. It was discussed how the image of the school is being tarred by these reviews when, in fact, they are not a reflection of the current situation.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 30th April** at 7pm in order to allow working parents to be part of the Parent Council.