

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 20th October 2021, 2pm

In attendance:

Lynette Searle (Headteacher)
Michelle Browne (Deputy Head Teacher)
Sarah Coreless
Joanne Bone
Hannah Walsh
Chelsie Barnes
Sana Faisal
Anna Firat
Shifa Faarjana
Laura Morley
Gemma Rouse



1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Lyndsey Carter.

LS introduced how the parent council works and welcomed new members to the Council.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARENT COUNCIL

To note any Parent Council vacancies and make recommendations to the Council for the recruitment of councillors from appropriate classes

MB explained how the large majority of our Parent Council is made up with parents from EYFS and Year 1, there is very little representation from other year groups. It was explained that the school would like to have a balanced view from parents across the whole school. Suggestions were to advertise more on Facebook and parent councillors would spread the word about joining the council.

3 PARENT VIEW/SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEWS

To discuss ways of encouraging parents to leave positive reviews about the school.

LS explained how the school is having a hard time shaking of the negative reputation that it has had for many years. Even though the school changed has made many changes over the last 4 years, many potential parents are put off by the old Ofsted report from 2016 and negative reviews on Google etc. MB shared some of the reviews that are on Google maps. It was decided that we need more positive reviews of the school to 'drown out' the negative ones which are very old and out of date.

LS also raised the fact that not many parents have left views on the Ofsted Parent View site and this is what Ofsted will look at before they carry out an inspection. (Current picture is just over 10 parents)

Ideas for encouraging parents to leave positive reviews about the school:

- Promote a positive picture on the school Facebook page, encouraging parents to leave a review on the site.
- Repost old memories such as the staff video from the first lockdown and other significant events.
- Parents leave a review on the year groups pages when they leave (graduate) from the year group. These could then be transferred to the main Facebook page.
- Have laptops/iPads outside the classrooms on Parent's Evenings and teachers ask the parents to fill in Parent View.
- Parent councillors will encourage other parents to leave reviews on their Parent WhatsApp groups.
- Have an evening dedicated to parent views where parents can come into the hall that is set up with laptops to fill in the Ofsted Parent View. Staff could be on hand to help parents who need it.
- Link giving Parent View to events that we hold in school so that parents can fill it in when they are here.
- Put a link on Seesaw, leaving it as an activity for parents to complete.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a link on Facebook for parents to the Ofsted Parent View site. 	
4	UPDATE ON CURRENT EAL AND SEND PROVISION IN THE SCHOOL To update on the current situation with regards to EAL and SEN provision in the school
<p>LS explained the current situation with regards to EAL. She explained that we have a growing number of children joining the school with little or no English. She explained that we now have 29 different languages spoken in the school so this has prompted the school to make the decision to have a full time teacher out of class dedicated to the support and teaching of EAL children as they make up just under 30% of the school. This teacher is Miss Cormenzana who is very experienced. LS explained that due to budget restraints this may only be for 1 year but we felt that it was worth the investment. Miss Cormenzana is beginning to create a body of parents who are able to speak several languages. They will be called upon to support with translating etc. when we have parents who speak no English. Parent Councillors were asked to ask around to find out if any parents would be willing to join this group.</p> <p>LS then went on to explain the SEND situation at the moment. Currently we have more and more children joining us who have specific needs and require 1:1 support in the classrooms. We discussed the possible causes – it could be more children being born with needs, more children could be getting diagnosed or it could be that specialist school provision is being stopped. SF shared her experience as a parent of a child with SEN needs and why she chose to send her child to a main stream school. Councillors agreed that it was good for both the child with SEN needs and the other children in the class as it helps to build up understanding and tolerance in the children. SF was very happy with her child's provision so far and was encouraged by how supportive the other children in her son's class are.</p> <p>LS described the changes that we have made in light of the increased need – we now have a designated SEN room where children have their own workstations and spaces and we have a new sensory room for children to use. LS shared how the parents of another school (Squirrels' Heath) heard about our sensory room and clubbed together to buy equipment for it.</p> <p>It was suggested that these should be put on the Facebook page and website to show what we are doing.</p>	
5	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
<p>It was raised that we need to be in the Romford Recorder more often to advertise how good the school is. SF raised the idea of having a support group for parents with SEN children. It would be good for the parents to be put in touch with other so that they could support each other and meet up if they wanted to. MB said that she would pass this idea on to the school SENDCo.</p>	
6	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
<p>Wednesdays were a good day for everyone present. MB will look in the diary and confirm a date for next half term.</p>	

ACTIONS SUMMARY	
1	MB to put a post on Facebook promoting the Parent Council
2	Teachers to put the link for Ofsted Parent View on Seesaw
3	MB to put a link for Parent View on the Facebook page
4	School to look into holding a Parent View evening after school to give parents access to laptops.
5	MB to put pictures of the sensory room on the website and Facebook page
6	MB to raise the idea of a support group for parents with SEN children with the school SENDCo.
7	MB to confirm a date for the next meeting.