

Campsbourne School HSA
School Parents Meeting and HSA General Meeting (AGM)
20th November 2013

Minutes

Present

Committee: Alysa Shirley (Chair), Andy Coates (Treasurer), Josipa Smith, Tanya Weisweiller, Marion Groshong, Keda Price-Cooper & Liz Allen

Parents/carers: Carla de Moras, Marina Barrull, Janine Longworth, Kate Milmo, Joanna Krupa, Jenny Reindorp, Jane Clay & Ashlie Love

Staff: Angela Ryan (AR)

Governor: Jude Pow

Apologies

None

1. HSA AGM and Fundraising

- The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2012 were proposed as a true record of proceedings by Alysa Shirley and seconded by Marion Groshong signed them acting as the temporary secretary.
- Copies of the Treasurer's Report 2012/13 were circulated. Marion Groshong proposed the accounts as a true record and Tanya Weisweiller seconded it. The accounts will be published on the Charity Commission website.
- Election of Management Committee: The following were elected in unanimously:
 - Chair: Alysa Shirley
 - Treasurer: Andy Coates
 - Fundraising: Marion Groshong
 - Class Rep Liaison: Tanya Weisweiller
 - General Members: Keda Price-Cooper, Josipa Smith & Liz Allen

A request was made for people interested in standing as committee members for the role of secretary and publicity team leader vacancies. Also non-committee roles for the publicity team, i.e. sponsorship boards, HSA newsletter compiler and poster distribution around the school.

Jane Clay and Janine Longworth offered to work on the publicity team and Marina Barrull said she would be responsible for putting up/taking down promotional posters around the school.

A reception parent said what a difference the HSA made to a new parent's feelings about the school. She felt they did a great job of welcoming everyone and keeping parents informed about forthcoming events. The committee gave their thanks.

Tanya asked whether someone would be able to take photographs at school events, so we could record them and use for publicity. Ashlie Love kindly volunteered.

The role of secretary remains unfilled.

2. UPDATE FROM HEAD:

The Chair then introduced Angela Ryan and Jude Pow.

AR outlined the school priorities. After discussions with parents, staff and pupils the following priorities have been set:

1. Improve the standards of reading and comprehension of pupils. The children need to fully grasp and understand what it is they have read, rather than just reading the words.
2. Closing the gap between free school meals/English as another language (EAL)/Special Educational Needs (SEN) children and their peers. A lot of children will fall into 2 or 3 of these groups and therefore the gap widens. School will concentrate on bringing them up to the same standard as their peers. Accelerate their learning via the pupil premium rather than take funding for this from other areas.
3. Improve sciences - it is taught well but it lacks resources and facilities. Maths and English continue to be a priority. However she would like to focus on science this year.
4. To challenge all high attainers in all subjects.

AR then asked the HSA to continue to work hard undertaking events to raise money for new projects.

She then went on to hand out plans for everyone to look at of an outdoor classroom/eco/science lab. She would like a specialist science area, as this is something very difficult to teach in a standard classroom.

The school has the space available to build on, within the secret garden. She then went on to explain exactly where on the school site this is. The area has 2 ponds already and the plans showed a decked area down to these where pond dipping could take place. One tree would need to be cut down. It was suggested the timber could be used for a log pile/stag beetle home.

AR explains that these plans were for a top of the range facility. They would have a living roof for example. She said that other options were available, for example pods or Ikea sell cabins. These will be looked into and cheaper options explored. Her preference would be for the higher end due to sustainability. Also there would be options to let it out as a business, as funding is getting harder and harder for schools to obtain.

AR said that £9k had already been raised towards this via the site manager's house. Previously used by the HSA as a storage area, a leak in the roof had left it unsafe and unusable. The council are going to take it back, refurbish it and place a family in there. They will also pay for the raised flowerbeds to be moved.

She is yet to approach the council for a funding for the new classroom.

The current quote is £80k and will have a 30 year guarantee. AR hopes to match the funds raised by the HSA. She went on to explain that the school used to be an environmental centre and other schools used the facilities. If it was a state of the art centre it could be let to other schools to provide income and used as a play cabin in the summer.

She will look at lottery funding, which is worth a try but unlikely. It will have to be applied for via the HSA, because of its charity status. A parent asked about the possibility of corporate sponsorship. AR said it was worth a try, however since this type of project had become more commonplace, it had become less desirable for sponsorship.

She would be looking to the HSA to raise £30k. This would be a project carried out over a couple of years.

The Treasurer asked whether it was possible to get a loan from the council - AR said no.

Keda Price-Cousins asked if AR would be happy to publicise that this is what the HSA are raising money for - AR said yes.

AR then continued to outline her secondary aim, which is to improve the classrooms, update and bring them into the 21st century. This would be by purchasing units that would contain interactive white-board, teacher's books and pupils trays to de-clutter the classroom. This would improve the area and create more space.

The cost would be £20k for 4 classrooms. New ergonomic chairs had been ordered for the children.

The Chair explained that the committee had already agreed that the science classroom was their first fund raising priority.

3. EVENTS

The Chair explained that this year a new approach was being piloted, to put set events out to the different year groups. Marion then outlined which year was doing which event.

The end of year BBQ was considered a great success, but it was stressed that it was totally a weather dependant and this was a social rather than fundraising event.

If anyone has any new fund raising ideas then please approach the committee. The promise auction and glamour under the hammer evenings were both new successful ventures.

The Chair explained that each event had been assigned a mentor who could advise the year group.

Tanya explained that anyone can get involved in any event, not just the event assigned to their year group. One benefit of setting this out at the beginning of the year is that events can be planned well ahead.

A parent asked how interested parents went about helping with the festive bazaar (in particular producing food for sale); Marion said she would speak to her after the meeting.

Mission Control and volunteers will be requested for each event as far in advance as possible.

4. AOB

A parent asked about hygiene at school. In particular hand washing before snack time, as there currently are worms going around. Another parent said there was no soap in the outdoor toilets. AR said she would look into this.

Nits are also a problem at the moment. AR said that this had been an ongoing problem since the decline of the nit nurse. She had spoken with other heads for their ideas. She informed us that there was a 'nit week' planned to educate, provide more information and sell nit combs. The school nurse was also doing a workshop. Letters in book bags were going out and teachers had been asked to be vigilant.

Apart from that, it is really out of her control, however if a pupil is obviously severely infected then AR has the power to send that child home.

AR stressed that it was wrong to accuse any one ethnic group of being responsible for the spread and when questioned said this had happened.

AR's new role as Executive Head at West Green School in Tottenham was questioned. AR explained that she is totally committed to Campsbourne, but she had got the school she wanted it to be and now wished to stretch herself a little. She had received a call from the local authority, that it had a school in special measures and could she help. It is a one-form entry and therefore being a small school AR considers it a quick fix (of around 4 terms) to turn the school around.

She will be able to pass on her experience to help this school improve and promised that she would still be in every day. Her deputy is doing a fantastic job and is there in AR's absence. No teachers from Campsbourne will be taken over to West Green School. She believes that it is the right thing to do both from a personal point of view and for the benefit of the school. It would also help to prevent the school from being sucked into a chain of academies.

Jude Pow went on to explain that the school governors totally supported AR in doing this. To get an outstanding Ofsted rating Campsbourne needs to prove that it is supporting other schools. It will bring recognition for the school. It will allow other members of staff to grow and develop.

There was one final question asked; whether a decision would be made one way or another regarding uniform. It was explained that the last vote had resulted in a 50/50 return. Effectively the lower school are in favour, the upper school are not. AR stated that she is personally keen to see the school have a compulsory uniform. The parents attending the meeting generally agreed that they wished a decision would be made one-way or the other rather than it remaining non-compulsory. Jude Pow said she would take this information back

to the governors. A parent expressed concern about how this would affect families on a very limited income. It was explained that the HSA had been collecting second hand uniform that would be made available to families in need who can't afford to pay.

Meeting concluded 8.45pm.