

PTA MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2016, 7.30PM

Those Present:-

Rebecca Auterson	–	Chair
Helen Gwilliam	–	Vice Chair
Charlotte Gormley	–	Secretary
Helen Wallis	–	Head Teacher, Repton Primary School
Di Mapplebeck	-	Assistant Head, Repton Primary School
Fiona Parker	–	Teacher, Repton Primary School
Andy Jones	–	Governor, Repton Primary School
Roz Cheeseman	-	Parent
Matt Probart	–	Parent
Alana Cunningham	-	Parent

Apologies received from: Graham Earp (Treasurer), Claire Inwood, Claire Tarrant, Jo Taylor, Jennifer Allen

The agenda, prepared beforehand by the Chair, was circulated to all.

WELCOME & THANKS

Rebecca opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending, adding that it was especially good to see new parents.

Thanks were then given to those who had supported the PTA and school so far this term with current projects, namely

School Garden - Matt and Iain from downtoearthgardencare.co.uk, plus the parents and children (Jones, Thompsons, Gormleys, Devereuxs, Brooks, Tarrants, Allens, Molloys and Autersons) as well as school staff (Di Mapplebeck and Mr Marriott) who had helped to redesign the school garden on Saturday 27th February. All agreed that the new garden is a huge improvement and the school had received many positive comments from parents. The school children were very excited and enthusiastic to start gardening.

Libraries and Book Bonanza – thanks to everyone who had donated money or books to school and to Elaine Newbold who had printed the 'donated by' stickers. 180 books had been donated and £75 towards new purchases.

Vanishing Tea Parties – thanks were given to everyone who had held a party already, or intended to do so. To date, approx. £100 had been raised from such tea parties.

Birthday Presents – Martina and Sarah Williamson were thanked for their efforts in keeping the birthday box restocked again this term.

Certificates – Thanks were given to Claire Tarrant who had organised the printing of new 'Warrior' and 'Writer of the Week' certificates.

The designs were available to look at during the meeting and Rebecca suggested to Helen Wallis that, if she were happy with them, it had been suggested that 1,000 of each should be printed (on card) to ensure a good stock was available in school.

Action: Di Mapplebeck to sign-off and return to Claire Tarrant.

ACCOUNTS – CURRENT STATUS

Rebecca stated that the month had been quiet since no big PTA events had been held.

Rebecca read out a financial statement that had been provided by Graham Earp. In summary, approximately £18,000 remained in the bank. However, after allocated money is taken into account there is an available balance of approx £16,000 left.

Matt Probart added that a small greenhouse/cloch was still required for the garden area. It was agreed that this should be purchased.

FUNDRAISING OBJECTIVES

Playground

Rebecca informed those present that, following a meeting between staff and governors, there had been a re-prioritising of objectives. It had been decided that the purchase of a canopy was now a subject for capital expenditure, and would not be funded from PTA monies. The staff had been spoken to in order to gather their opinions, which were in turn considered by the Governors, Helen Wallis and Di Mapplebeck. It was concluded that the top priority should be to have the playground repainted, but not resurfaced. (A separate meeting with the school landlord resulted in the decision that the playground should not be resurfaced at this point in time).

Andy Jones commented that the decision to repaint the playground would benefit all children, whereas the canopy would only be of direct benefit to the Year 1 children.

Rebecca said that they had previously had an estimate for approximately £10K from DCC, depending on what painting choices were made. Di Mapplebeck stated that they would obtain an accurate quote from **Tom Booth at DCC**, which would require an on-site visit.

Andy Jones asked when it was intended that the repainting take place?

Rebecca said that it would be the intention to have the works completed this summer, if it proved possible, but that the first step was to have a clear idea of the costs involved. Rebecca asked those present if they would agree that - should a quote be found for approx. £10K - approval be given to go ahead with the painting, without holding another meeting? Those present agreed that, yes, agreement could be given for the painting to go ahead.

IT Facilities in School

Helen Wallis stated that the school was in need of various new IT facilities. She stated that a meeting had been held with Russell Eales (the School IT consultant) and it had been identified that a bank of 16 laptops with charging facilities were required. **A cost estimate for the** lap-top charger was £800. Helen confirmed that current bandwidth at the school is sufficient to cope with these additional computers.

With regard to the provision of portable tablets, the school currently has 8 ipads in each class. Better use could be made of the devices if there were charging hubs in each classroom (cost £70 from IKEA).

Rebecca stated that it was important that the hardware was properly specified so that they could be sure it would do the job it was intended to do. A full proposal/costing would therefore be required from Russell before PTA funds are released.

Fiona Parker added that another wireless loudspeaker was also required, as well as a visualizer to scan children's work.

Rebecca added that if costs proved to be as estimated during the meeting (namely up to approx. £6k), the PTA would have sufficient funds to cover these requests in addition to the playground repainting this academic year.

Potential Funding

Rebecca stated that she had written to various organisations requesting financial funding and gave an update on progress. The Rotary Club were considering the email; Repton School had not yet replied; EMA Community Fund will be applied to by the next deadline of 20 April and there was also the possibility of potential lottery funding.

A brief discussion followed regarding the caveats for receiving lottery funding, namely that the school would have to prove that any funding would directly increase sporting activities and also make sporting opportunities available to the wider community.

Fiona suggested that it might be possible to invite other schools to use the play area? Helen Wallis also suggested that Beavers and Cubs etc could use the field for no charge.

Libraries

Rebecca stated that last term she had been appalled regarding the condition of reading books that her children had been bringing home. Consequently, several days of last term were spent sorting out the staged reading books in school. Rebecca said that she had since found out that no statutory requirement exists for a school to have a library, but that she and other parents felt that it was imperative that the school have a library, to be accessed by all the children. She stated that she felt that this was particularly important now that a mobile library was no longer available in the village.

Helen Wallis stated that a lot of books for topics had been sourced last term and placed in class rooms.

Roz Cheeseman added that her eldest child had barely bought a reading book home from school and believed that access to books was the issue, since classes kept books within the class for use by that class only.

Di added that she had created a system in her class for logging-in and out books.

Rebecca said that she did not believe there were enough books in school for those children who were 'free readers'. She stated that she believed that there should be a guaranteed PTA

budget so that money could be spent on an on-going basis to provide a good quantity of quality reading books.

Charlotte Gormley agreed with this, and said that her daughter had brought books home that were far below her reading standard. When she had asked her daughter about this she had been told that there wasn't any other choice of book to take.

Rebecca said that she had been doing some research and had received a quote from the Junior Librarian Company. The company charges £2K to set-up a library monitoring system. Stickers placed on books could be scanned, and linked with finger-print recognition. She had also discovered that the Foyle Foundation would donate monies to schools wanting to totally update their library. Information on this opportunity has been passed to Miss Taylor and Mrs Norcross, the teachers who are taking charge of reviewing the library areas.

Di replied that she was confused in that she thought this type of system had previously been discussed but rejected.

Rebecca confirmed that Di and herself had discussed the idea of a fingerprint-recognition based library system but wondered about the practicality of getting it approved by parents (considering Data protection issues) and also, on the basis of available funds, that we could probably manage to keep track of books using a paper-based system. However, having discovered a fund that provides typically £3k - £10k grants and targets Ofsted down-rated school, she had passed the information to school to think about.

Andy Jones stated that as reading was such an important part of a child's education and school life that a library would surely be welcomed.

A brief discussion followed regarding the reality of managing a library. It was agreed that there would most be 2 designated library areas – one for fiction and one for non-fiction. It was also considered important that both Key Stage 1 books and Key Stage 2 books were in the same area. Helen Gwilliam raised a concern regarding billing parents for missing or damaged books, in that the condition of the book would have to be known before being loaned. It was generally agreed that there would have to be a system of recording which child had taken which book, and that it was not considered unreasonable for parents to be billed for non-returned books at the end of a term.

Fiona Parker added that in Year 3 non-fiction books were required in the graded reading area.

Roz suggested that the 'book bonanza' be held annually as parents would clearly keep books back for their younger children, but could plan to pass them on to school if they knew there was an annual request.

Rebecca added that Charlotte Gormley had created a reading list of suggested non-fiction for all year groups. This was an amalgamation of various recommended reading lists. The total for the purchase of 104 books was approximately £650. Rebecca asked for agreement for Charlotte to go ahead and order these books, which was received.

Action: Charlotte Gormley

Andy Jones then asked what plan was in place to purchase non-fiction titles? He said that we ought to agree, on an annual basis, how much to be spent on books?

Rebecca agreed, but felt that the list of required books needed to come from the school, as it should tie-in with topics and the curriculum.

Fiona told the meeting that Mr Fewkes, parent, had been given time off work to help school and so had started sorting out the fiction library. All old and damaged books had been discarded and books were being catalogued and filed.

Signing Off of Expenditure

Rebecca said that she felt concerned that the current PTA had sole responsibility for deciding on what to spend monies. She asked if the meeting felt that it was appropriate to survey parents as to what they believed money should be spent on? A brief discussion followed, and it was agreed that those parents who actively joined the meeting should make such decisions. Action: all parents...please come to the PTA meetings!

Funding Requests

A contribution to the Year 6 Leavers party had been requested. Di informed the meeting that the Year 6 parents organised the party in its entirety, and that the PTA and school did not have any input to its organisation, but had historically made a donation. It was agreed that £100 should be donated.

Helen Wallis requested monies for a welly stand, similar to the one that the Reception children have. Rebecca said that she would ask the DT department at Repton School if anyone needed a project to see if this might be something that could be created for the school free of charge?

Helen also stated that the school had bought a CGP booklet, due to the new curriculum, and that it would be great if they could have a set of 10 booklets?

Rebecca asked if the £200 allocated to each year group could be used for this purpose? Rebecca to speak with Mrs Hesketh to obtain a quote.

FORTHCOMING PTA EVENTS

Bags to School

Rebecca advised that 'The Bags to School' collection date was scheduled for 10th March. The bags had already been delivered to school, and needed to be sent home with children this week. She suggested sending out a newsletter, along with the key minutes from the meeting, as well as forms for ordering tickets for the various events planned.

Andy Jones asked how much was usually collected from the Bags to School collection; Rebecca replied that it had raised approx. £120 last term

Raising £50 in 50 Days

Rebecca acknowledged that she expected a mixed response to the challenge, in that some parents would embrace it but that others would not. She had received several suggestions from parents who were enthusiastic about the challenge.

Reception parents had suggested holding a Fun Run and suggested 19th April. The date would need changing so that it would not clash with 'Soccer Stars', and that being the case, Rebecca asked if Helen would agree to this. Helen said that the Fun Run was a good idea and gave her permission, although she said that it should be noted that part of the field was still likely to be gated-off.

Roz said that she had distributed a flyer in Milton for cake-orders, which to date had raised £55. She had also planted herbs that she intended to sell via an 'honesty box'.

Fiona suggested that it might be a good idea to have a 'wall of fame', detailing who was planning what, along with photos in order to promote the challenge which commenced on Friday 26th February. This was agreed to be a great idea.

Bunny Drive – 18th March

Rebecca asked if the school had enough dice in order to run the evening, and Helen said that they did. A discussion followed regarding what ticket price should be charged and what food provided. It was agreed that an adult ticket should be £3, and a child's £1.50, the ticket price including a baked potato, served with butter and grated cheese and a choice of two other cold fillings. Prizes were also required for the event, and Rebecca said that she would ask for donations via the newsletter.

Easter Egg Hunt – 23rd March

A parent's evening had now been scheduled on this evening, but it was decided that the Tea Party should still go ahead, being held in the Year 6 classroom. It was decided that, should bad weather happen on the evening, a video would be played instead of the egg hunt on the field. It was noted that teachers would not be able to help during the event, due to the Parent's Evening.

NEXT TERM AND FUTURE FUNDRAISING

Rebecca reminded the meeting of the various future fundraising ideas that had been discussed, namely, Gambia Day, Duck Derby (the day for this had now been confirmed to be 8th May) and a Summer BBQ

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rebecca said that she had attended a meeting with Repton School regarding the use of their marquee on 2nd July, 2017.

The options for its use were discussed and it was suggested that it could be used for either a formal evening dinner, an afternoon event for families or an early evening barn dance. Rebecca asked those present for their opinions and it was decided that the most practical suggestion would be a barn dance.

Rebecca suggested that they should try and book a band/caller for the event as soon as possible.

Fiona Parker asked the PTA for permission to order a copy of a play for the school play, the cost of which, plus a licence, was approx. £100. She also asked if she could order the Year 5 T-shirts; Rebecca said that she could but asked if Fiona would confirm the price to her before purchase.

Fiona also said that The School Council had requested a playground box for each class. This box would contain playground equipment, with the contents being decided by the individual classes. As the boxes would be situated outside, they needed to be weather-proof. Rebecca said that we would need to have an idea of costs before approval could be given and it was suggested that Costco might stock something suitable and reasonably priced.

Action: **Rebecca and Miss Parker**

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.