

PTA MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2016, 7.30PM

Those Present:-

Rebecca Auterson	–	Chair
Helen Gwilliam	–	Vice Chair
Charlotte Gormley	–	Secretary
Helen Wallis	–	Head Teacher
Fiona Parker	–	Teacher
Julie Broad	–	Teacher
Matt Probart	–	Parent
Alana Cunningham	-	Parent

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 and teachers. She gave apologies received from Graham Earp, Melanie Ashby, Di Mapplebeck, Jo Taylor, Claire Inwood, Andrea Reay and Jo Seacombe.

Thanks were then given to those who had helped with last year's fundraising efforts – in particular, Laura Ashley for their donation of a £1,000 sofa and Natalie Brooks for applying for Match Funding from Boots, which raised an additional £497 of funds. It was noted that the Match Funding scheme allows a Boots employee to claim up to £1,000 per year, running from September to September.

Rebecca asked those present if anyone knew of any other companies who participate in Match Funding. Alana suggested that the Post Office might and Helen stated that she believed that Donna (a midday supervisor) worked also for the Co-op.

Rebecca added that she had asked Repton School if they were able to donate any monies from Sale of Work (we will hear this term if we have been successful) and also stated that Di Mapplebeck was going to ask her husband, as he worked at Toyota.

Fiona said that she had approached Balfour Beatty, but without success. Helen Wallis stated that the builder of the new housing behind the school had already been approached as part of the development, and had kindly donated sundries (drainpipes etc) for use by the Reception children.

Action: Rebecca to chase leads listed.

ACCOUNTS – CURRENT STATUS

Rebecca made reference to the Summary of Accounts, stating that a total of £2.5K was raised last term.

The PTA bank balance currently stood at £18,559.93, but funds previously allocated for class fund allocations, outdoor play equipment, wet-play boxes and Mariamma fund raising, left an available balance of £16,446.80.

FUNDRAISING OBJECTIVES

Canopy and Playground

Rebecca said that she had hoped to be able to come to the meeting with a quote for the Reception canopy but, unfortunately, it hadn't been sent to her in time. However, she stated that she believed it likely to be less than the £16,446.80 currently available.

Matt asked for a description of the canopy which was duly described by Helen Wallis. It was to be an open canopy (ie not enclosed) providing shelter so that children could play under it even in poor weather. Planning permission would be sought once the specifics of the canopy were known.

Rebecca asked those present if they felt that it would be worthwhile sourcing a site plan detailing all other envisaged improvements to ensure that the position of the canopy would not impact on any other playground developments in the future? Those present felt that this was a good suggestion and Matt asked if there were any architect parents that could help? Rebecca stated that Martin Pettitt, a parent, had been approached. Rebecca also pointed out that she had discovered a company called Schoolscapes who provided a full and comprehensive service for playground/site development. For a fee they would create a design and plan and would then apply on the schools behalf for funding.

Helen Gwilliams said that they would have to check that such a company had adequate insurances in place to protect the school, in case of any repercussions.

Action: Rebecca to ask Schoolscapes to quote for a comprehensive development plan.

Matt asked how much monies would likely be spent on such a development plan. Rebecca answered that a total resurfacing of the tarmac, drains location and painting was likely to be £35K.

Helen Gwilliams asked what was considered to be the priority for the outside areas?

Rebecca answered that the canopy was the first priority as it satisfied Ofsted concerns, followed by the resurfacing of the playground, IT facilities and finally an outdoor seating area. This was endorsed by Helen Wallis.

Helen Gwilliams stated that if the canopy was considering the priority, then the PTA should source the canopy as soon as possible, and then start fundraising afresh for the redevelopment of the playground.

Helen Wallis again reiterated that the canopy should be sourced through the Council, as it was considered a structural development, whereas the playground resurfacing could be executed through a company such as Schoolscapes.

Matt asked if lottery funding had been applied for recently. Rebecca answered that the school had previously received circa £10K in lottery funding. Matt also asked how long it had taken to raise the current amount of £18K PTA monies. Rebecca explained that £15K had already been raised the previous year, but based on last term's fundraising it would be realistic to assume that it would take a year to raise £10K.

A discussion followed regarding an application for lottery funding. It was believed that one of the criteria for funding was to ensure that any development ensured that it encouraged more people to play sport. It was suggested that the playground plan could include painted 'courts' to be used by schoolchildren and parents alike.

Rebecca concluded the discussions by asking what could be done in the meantime to make the playground more appealing to the children. She said that Mrs Pearson had identified stick-on tiles that were applied to the playground to make grids, which in turn could be used for a variety of games and applications. A brief discussion followed regarding whether the surface could be temporarily painted, but this was decided against.

Action: Helen Gwilliam to investigate ways of temporarily improving the playground.

Other expenditure planned

Rebecca told the meeting that she had sent emails to all class teachers advising them of the allocated funds per class, to let them know that the monies were there to spend.

Rebecca had recently received a quote from a printing company for 2,000 'Warrior' and 'Writer of the Week' certificates (1,000 of each) printed on card. The quote was for £250 but was considered to be high by several of those present. Matt and Fiona offered to see if they could source a cheaper quotation.

Action: Matt Probart and Fiona Parker

THIS TERM'S PTA EVENTS

Helping Hands

Rebecca said that a 'helping hands' day was required to update the Key Stage 2 books but the original 'helping hands day' identified for 7th February was no longer feasible as access could not be gained to school on this day. Wednesday 10th February, after school, was offered as an alternative. It was also suggested that a film could be run in order to occupy the children of any helpers.

Rebecca planned to send a letter home requesting parents either donate a book, or make a monetary donation. Those books that had been donated would be adorned with a sticker detailing 'this book was donated by'. (The cost of the stickers would be £85 per 1000).

This was considered by all to be a good suggestion, although Helen Gwilliam made the point that if stickers were issued with the initial letter of request, half of them would probably not be returned and, therefore, wasted. Fiona suggested it would be better to issue the sticker as the books were brought into school.

Middle Bell

A 'parent's only' evening was planned for 30th January. Pete and Sue Kitchener, the recent new landlords of the Middle Bell, had offered to run a pizza night for a set price, with £5 of the ticket price being given to the PTA. Suggestions were invited for what else could be run on the evening; an 'auction of promises', a raffle, a pub quiz or murder mystery evening were all suggested, with an 'auction of promises' on the night being agreed upon.

Action: Helen Gwilliam to investigate murder mystery evenings for a possible future event.

50 days to raise £50

Rebecca read out an email which had been received by a parent, highlighting their concern that children might be penalised if they did not raise the monies and also the expectation that parents of more than one child would have to raise 2 or 3 times this amount.

Rebecca said that the '50 day challenge' had been suggested since she had received emails from various parents expressing a willingness to make a donation to the PTA, but not wishing to attend a PTA event. It was accepted that some parents would be willing to help with such an initiative, whereas others wouldn't, in the same way that some children would be very excited by the idea, but others not. It was agreed that when the challenge was issued, a list of ideas should be given, including suggesting that parents write to their place of work to request a donation. Fiona said that some of the Year 6 children might like to ask Sainsbury's/Tescos etc if they would be allowed to help pack at the checkouts.

Family Easter Event

Wednesday 23rd March had been scheduled previously as a children only fundraising event. A discussion ensued regarding ideas for this, and a 'Mad Hatters tea party' to be held immediately after school was finally decided upon. An Easter egg hunt would be held and it was suggested that dressing-up could be optional

Friday 18th March was scheduled as a family event. Again a discussion followed regarding ideas for this, suggestions including a quiz, Beetle Drive and Pig Racing Night. An "Easter Bunny Drive" (following the same format as a Beetle Drive) was decided upon.

Action: Matt to investigate a future Pig Racing Night.

Catering on the evening was also discussed and Rebecca reminded the meeting of the various options that could be considered, namely that parent Nana Georgiou had a fish and chip business, the Chinese takeaway in Repton had offered to help, the Bulls Head would cater and deliver and there was also the mobile chip van to consider.

Rebecca also said that Tracey from the school kitchen had offered the use of the school kitchen if the appropriate training was undertaken, but it was decided that, due to health and safety issues, this was the least favorable option.

NEXT TERM AND FUTURE FUNDRAISING

A discussion was held to identify what actions needed to be taken to facilitate those events planned for the following term.

Duck Derby

Helen Wallis advised that someone needed to speak to Sally Reynoldson ahead of the event, as historically, the PTA had needed to contact two families for their permission, as the brook ran through their gardens. Helen also suggested that the PTA might like to consider serving refreshments on the day, rather than have participants/attendees purchasing refreshments at the Tea Rooms.

Action: Rebecca

Summer Fayre

Anthony Hall needed to be asked if he was able to assemble a band for the event.

Action: Rebecca

Gambia Day

27th May was identified as a date for 'Gambia Day'. It was suggested that the day could be themed around a typical day in the life of a Gambian child. It was suggested that parents could be invited into school to facilitate engineering tasks with the children (ie setting up a rope and pulley to draw water). Helen Wallis stated that various grants were available for engineering and science activities that were run in school. It was also suggested that students from either Repton or Derby University could be invited to participate?

Action: Helen Wallis and Fiona to canvas opinion at the next staff meeting about how this day could run.

Other Ideas

Fashion Show - It was suggested that a fashion show could be held in school – for either parents, or children.

Children could create items of clothing– perhaps using recycled items (linking the event to eco works and even the Gambia) and then showcase their creations at a fashion show.

Action: Charlotte to investigate whether a Boden fashion show could be facilitated.

Talent Show – the school could hold a 'Repton's Got Talent' event, possibly nearer the end of the year. Both parents and children could be invited to perform – whether singing, dancing, playing an instrument etc.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fiona reminded the meeting that the PTA had historically paid for the Year 5 school play T-shirts. It was decided that this should continue.

It had been identified in a previous meeting that a clock should be purchased for the school playground and raised beds purchased for the school garden. Rebecca asked how these items should be ordered and paid for. Helen Wallis suggested that the items should be ordered via Barbara McArdle.

Matt Probart asked how much had been intended to spend on the raised beds, the reply being approx. £1,000. Matt, a gardener, stated that he thought this was excessive and offered to install the raised beds himself.

Action: Matt Probart

Matt also stated that he believed that there was a scheme run jointly between Barclays and Jewsons, whereby money deposited in a Barclay's account, resulted in Jewson's vouchers? He offered to investigate this further.

Action: Matt Probart

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.