

**MINUTES FROM
PARENTS' FORUM
Tuesday 20th June, 2023
7-8pm**

ATTENDEES: 12 Parents/Carers,
Rachel Davies, Headteacher and Safeguarding Leader,
Victoria Rodrigues, Business and Operations Leader,
Joanna Lovatt, Chair and Parent Support Adviser

1. WELCOME to all attendees and a reminder that this meeting is
 - not a statutory obligation for either Parents and Carers nor for Staff.
 - It was introduced by the School to encourage Parents and Carers to have a voice that can be used to debate and discuss the future direction of the school, with the objective of benefiting the pupils.
 - To ensure that the whole community has their voice heard, decisions may be finalised after all families have an opportunity to express their opinions. Any changes of direction may require a period of consultation.

2. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING, which covered two areas
 - Children's Mental Health.
 - The school is continuing to provide and develop tools for the Pupils, the Staff and the Parents & Carers well-being. For pupils, there the "Zones of Regulation" has been embedded and continues to be monitored whilst there are also bespoke solutions for those children requiring further support.
 - The school is into their second year of a three-year strategy for all three groups of Pupils, Staff and Parents & Carers. Feedback has been very positive on using two of the targeted resources from the borough on "Helping children manage Anxiety" and also "Managing Challenging Behaviour".
 - The School will continue to reflect on what is working well and what changes need to be made.
 - After School Clubs – this will be carried forward to the new discussions as a number of significant changes have been made and further issues raised.

3. NEW DISCUSSIONS
 - AKTIVA AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
 - The school felt that a point had been reached where the provision of clubs after school needed to be rethought. After working with parents and governors on a sustainable solution for all, it was decided to seek another external provider.
 - A number of companies bid for the contract and "Little Foxes" were judged to provide the most effective solution. "Little Foxes" have been successfully working with providing clubs for other schools as well as running Holiday Clubs for many years. Whilst there will always be a period of settling in, they have already sent families a questionnaire to find the best fit for the Parents, Carers and Children at the school. This was sent out today (Tuesday 20th June) via Parentmail.
 - If families can respond in sufficient time, "Little Foxes" hope to publish the Autumn Clubs timetable before the Summer Holidays.
 - "Aktiva" will continue to provide the wraparound care for the Breakfast Club and After School. This is because the feedback to the school indicates that this is still working well for the majority of parents.
 - Any feedback for either "Aktiva" or for "Little Foxes" should be sent to Victoria Rodrigues via email info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk.

- PE KIT
 - A parent requested that children (including those in Key Stage 1, year groups 1-3) should be allowed to come into school in their PE kit. This was to reduce the number of embarrassing comments as well as reducing the number of items of clothes being lost.
 - The school have responded to changes over the years so that Year 5 & Year 6 do come into school in their PE Kit.
 - The decision does have both positives and negatives. On the plus side, it does reduce any possible unwanted attention and comments as well as reducing lost kit.
 - On the other hand, allowing the children to change in class means that teaching staff have the opportunity to develop the children's independence and fine motor skills (i.e. in tying up shoe laces, manipulating buttons, changing clothes, folding clothes and neatly placing them in a single pile).
 - There is also the issue of children, particularly during the warm months, having potential hygiene issues after finishing PE.
 - The school would value feedback on this from families. Please could feedback be sent to the school email address info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk.
 - Another parent suggested that pupils from Year 4 also be allowed to come in their PE kit on the relevant days due to their age.
- PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS
 - A parent asked if meetings would go back to face-to-face? Sometimes technological issues can cause problems; it is good to be able to view the child's work at the same time and it may reduce overruns.
 - As before, the school has canvassed opinions from parents and staff, particularly since the lockdowns. Overall, the feedback for the online service has been very positive.
 - It has allowed more Parents & Carers to take part, particularly for working parents who can allocate time during working hours. It has also allowed a wider range of times to be made available for both Staff as well as Parents & Carers. Childcare is no longer an issue and other adults can participate as well. The online service has also reduced the overruns rather than increased them.
 - On the downside, it does mean that there is a compromise in terms of building up relationships between Teachers and Parents & Carers. However, parents & carers can still request a face-to-face meeting outside of the Parent Teacher Meetings and for those with children from Nursery up to Year 4, the drop-off and pick-up times allow daily contact.
 - RD posed the question of whether the school's communications are effective enough and that will require parents & carers to provide feedback. A parent asked if in future, the meetings could be provided either online or face-to-face.
 - Please could parents provide feedback via the school email address info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Having received four emails after the cut-off date for submissions, all to do with School Dinners, the school have provided a specific feedback for so that we can monitor where any issues are and where the responsibility lies (as this involves a variety of different groups, some of whom are external to the school). There will then be a Parents' Forum scheduled for September 2023 to discuss the results.
 - The school document can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tMWyioO3IWR_8vcI3_DdhKTD9EdT1T8o_mlqiKQBth8/edit?usp=sharing