

PARENTS FORUM MINUTES

Tuesday 27th February 2024

7-8pm, via zoom

18 Attendees

ATTENDEES: Rachel Davies, Headteacher and Welfare Leader, RD
Victoria Rodrigues, Business and Operations Leader, VR
Joanna Lovatt, Chair and Parent Support Adviser, JL

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,
 - “Little Foxes” (LF) After School Clubs - clubs not running the whole length of the Autumn Term 2023
For their first term hosting the clubs, LF announced that they would provide a total of 10 weeks cover for the 13 whole weeks of the Autumn Term. VR had agreed this with them up front so went back to see if they could provide an alternative option, which had already been flagged. LF proved to be flexible, willing to invest their resources and, with a good response to their survey, they came up with a solution of providing extra, general sessions for the remainder of the Autumn Term. There is no need for this in the Spring Term but the Summer Term 2024 is also longer than normal. They will consider running the same arrangement of ten club session plus extra, separately paid general clubs.

3. FUTURE HEATWAVES – WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE IMPACT FOR SCHOOL USERS INSIDE THE BUILDINGS?
 - The parent who raised the question acknowledged that it would be too expensive for air conditioning at this stage but wondered what areas of the school are at risk and what plans the school had?
 - VR – Having looked at solutions over the years, particularly in relation to the Hall due to the Summer Productions and Assemblies, cost of entry for Air Conditioning as well as the noise meant it was not an option. The new roof installed last year has shown an increase in temperatures inside the building and the temperature is higher in different parts of the building during their day, where there is direct sunlight. School contacted the borough who said that the ratio of days where this was a problem did not justify any further funding.
 - RD – They have looked at the option of moving around different areas of the school to minimise those areas that are particularly warm at any one moment in time. But as this changes throughout the day it was not a solution. But the school will reinvestigate portable air conditioning and any other potential solutions, having learnt the key issues during the Summer of 2022 when the school had to be closed due to the heat (this was led by the borough issuing advice over and above the normal guidance). Any options have to be balanced with the overall Health & Safety (particularly during the Covid restrictions) of leaving doors and/or windows open, both during and outside school

hours. All classrooms have blinds and these have been closed during hot spells, including at night. RD thanked the parent for raising this issue and said that a watching brief will be maintained.

- The school will continue to be guided by the guidance sent by the local authority in hot weather.
- VR confirmed that the school now recorded the temperature in all the classrooms and working areas throughout the now.
- Another parent, Jen Forakis, suggested initiating a competition for children to come up with their own ideas. JL to pursue this to provide a focus and structure for this.

4. POINTS RAISED BY THE SCHOOL

RHE PARENT CONSULTATION

- RD reminded all parents that in the Summer Term, it is compulsory to teach "Relationships & Health Education" throughout the school.
- It is vital that parents provide feedback. The last feedback was provided in 2019 and it proved invaluable for all concerned. Workshops are available on Wednesday 6th March, at 5.15pm during the Bedtime Stories sessions and again on Friday 8th March.
- There will be a presentation available on the website for those parents who are unable to attend. It will highlight those points that have changed as a result of parental feedback.

CATERING CONTRACT

- VR confirmed that a ParentMail had been sent recently, to confirm that an external procurement company was managing the process.
- The deadline for companies to be considered for bidding is Friday 15th March.
- Feedback from the minutes and surveys from parents has been fed back into the consultation. The contract will be awarded by Friday 3rd May, with the new company and menus starting in September 2024.
- The Mayor of London has confirmed that free school meals throughout primary school children will be free for the remainder of this year and the next academic year (2024-25). The Contract Management will allow for £3 per meal per child.
- Please could parents provide feedback via the school email address info@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BUILDING WORKS

- A late email was received regarding a previous issue on smells in the playground as a result of the new accommodation being built next to the school back playground and 'L'.
- The staff on site responded quickly to the diesel generator issues and this has been replaced. The school has not had any further issues regarding smells, noise, dirt or dust but noted that parents have still got an issue with the smells during drop off in the mornings.
- However, the school have repeatedly tried to ask for the project plans-without any luck from the borough, nor from the contacts listed on the board at the entrance to the building work. The school will ask governors and raise this issue through the Finance & Premises Committee. School has been persistently frustrated by inconsistent responses.
- Please could parents send in emails to the relevant authorities listed at the building site.
- Ritu Nibber, a parent, kindly agreed to seek out the advice of one of the local Councillors during their open, drop-in sessions at Chiswick Library on Saturday mornings. Ritu will then update the school.

MEETING CLOSED