

# PTA Meeting 06/09/16 Minutes

## Apologies

Hazel Ritchie, Alison Mitchell

## Attendees

Dale Dow, Clare Dunne, Brian Howie, Fiona Sneddon, Kirsten Mackie, Steph Clark, Shaun Morley, Catriona Iley, Kay Dingwall, Iona Matheson, Julie Beath, Klrsty McGregor

## Treasurer

Main Account sitting at £2757.43 after payments of £47.27 to Clare Dunne for Wish Board materials; £16.99 to Jackie Barn for half the cost of condolence card to Mr Hunter; £312 to Mr Miller for wood and glue for playground; and £1227.20 to school for P1 blue bags (£187.50), P7 photos (£634.70), and balance of nursery buses (£405).

Uniform Account sitting at £884.07 after £29 refund to parent who returned uniform after child moved school; £17.90 to Gilmore Sports; and a deposit of £425.02 (which included £93 from the Thrift Shop).#

## Wish Board

Clare has completed the Wish Board, which was very well received. The board comes with velcro attachments which can be added onto each section as wishes are fulfilled. There was some discussion as to where the board should be placed, and it was agreed it should be somewhere visible near the front of the school where pupils and parents can see it. Mr Morley fed back the teachers' wishes.

The three wishes for the staff are:

- 1) New projectors for the smartboards. The PTA helped to pay for projectors and smartboards approx. 4-5 years ago, however many of these are now needing replaced. There are around 20 of these projectors in the school (1 for each classroom), 5 have already been replaced as they have failed and another 10 are a priority. The school would like to ask for access to funds to replace these as and when they fail. The cost is approximately £400 per projector. The whole sum would not be required up front, however, as replacement would be ongoing over the next few years. Mrs Clark advised that usage of

the smartboards and projectors is extremely high, and they are an essential in the classrooms.

- 2) Ipad minis. The existing I pads are still being used, however the school would like to purchase 1 Ipad mini per classroom, at a cost of approx. £300 per unit.
- 3) New PE equipment. Currently there is insufficient stocks of PE equipment and this is limiting the teachers' abilities to teach PE. It was noted that other schools in the area are much better stocked with a greater variety of equipment. New supplies of equipment such as tennis balls, discuses and shotputs would be appreciated.

During discussion of the staff wishes it was suggested that the school hold a fundraising talent show for which each class could prepare several acts. In order to accommodate the whole school this could be held over 2 evenings. It was also suggested that a "smarties for smartboards" fundraising drive could be held, in which each child could be provided with a tube of smarties which could be brought back filled with 20p coins for the school. The possibility of a scavenger hunt was also raised.

#### Parents' 3 wishes:

In order to determine 3 wishes on behalf of all parents Dale read out some of the results from the PTA survey which was put out online over the summer. Dale advised that, despite having pushed the survey all summer, only 19 replies were received. Some of the responses received revealed some discontent amongst parents over some of the things the PTA has spent money on. This included projectors.

The parent wish list includes: More I pads, playground equipment, leavers' dance contribution, shelters with seating where children can learn on sunny days, funding towards allotments and wellies/waterproof stock, provide more LSAs (although this is a council issue), proper running track around the field, contribution toward clubs including a sign for the football field.

Dale suggested that as a contribution towards the leavers' dance the PTA subsidise the party bus for the P7s. One was used last year and it was found to be much more inclusive than some pupils using limos. The cost of the subsidy would be £100-200 with an additional £5 each being paid by parents. The party bus can accommodate a maximum of 56 people. Julie advised there are 48 in this year's P7.

The PTA will continue to fund the P7 photos for leavers. Mrs Clark advised that these are always very well received and a nice surprise for both children and parents, who don't know they are getting them. Julie advised that she had spoken to the photographers regarding the photos and the cost will be £10 per child. The cost of the photographs are predominantly taken up by the mounts. It was suggested that rather than provide a hardcopy print a CD could be produced comprised of photos

taken throughout the school year, and including important events such as the P7 camp. A class group photo, and personalised photos, such as first day at school etc. could also be included. The cost of this would be approx. £1 per CD. A majority voted in support of this idea.

### Pupil's 3 wishes:

Julie advised that the P7s would like to ask for money to do up the P7 garden. The fence needs repaired and there is a thorny bush which needs to be removed or cut back. Some new plants would also be appreciated. Fiona Sneddon advised that Lloyds Bank will be at the school on 20th September painting the playground markings, however will be unable to paint if it rains. If that is the case they could work on the garden. Mrs Iley will undertake a risk assessment for this. Clare Dunne will contact garden centres and the RHS to source plant donations.

It was agreed that a member of teaching staff would attend the next Pupil Council meeting to ask for more wishes from pupils.

## **Survey Results - feedback from Dale**

On the question "*what does the PTA do*" many answered that we fundraise and provide for the school. This question was also answered with some showing their discontent on our past purchases. One parent said "raise money for whatever the school is unwilling to pay for. Not always in the interest of the children."

There was a question related to events that parents want. These are listed as: Medium night; More movie nights; Race night; End of each term fairs; Monthly direct debit; Burns night; Family fun day/gala; Summer fair; Whole school disco; Bingo night; Quiz night; Games night; Cheese and wine night; cycling event.

## **Christmas Fair Raffle**

The top prize this year will be a games console. Dale advised the choice is between a PS4 and an X-Box. There was no strong preference either way, so it was decided that we will wait and see what comes up in the Black Friday sales and go for the cheaper option.

Dale is in the process of going through the phone book to source other prizes. It was decided to approach Decathlon for a prize donation again this year. Previously they have given scooters, however it was decided to ask for a different prize this year. Suggestions included a table tennis set, a basketball hoop and a tent. Kirsty will also speak to Tesco regarding donation of a voucher.

It was suggested that someone approach Sainsbury's and other local supermarkets for donations towards a christmas hamper.

Mrs Iley advised that the school had been made aware of an issue regarding ticket sales from last year's fair. It appears that not all the money from ticket sales was handed back into the school, and nor were the ticket stubs from those sales. There was some discussion over devising a system for tracking which raffle tickets pupils had been assigned to sell. It was decided that this would be difficult to administer, however the children should be advised that the school is aware there was a problem last year and the tickets are being monitored. It was also decided that it should be stressed to children that they should only be approaching their own friends and family to sell tickets, and for their own safety they should not approach strangers.

Dale confirmed that the committee was happy with the tickets books produced last year and will reorder for this year. She advised that she will try to have the ticket books ready by October break.

## **Photo People**

Dale advised that the photo people have been in contact to ask if we would like to use their service again this year.

The feedback from those that took up the offer last year was extremely positive. It was felt that there was some interest in having a photo session scheduled earlier in the year, preferably before Christmas as the prints could make good Christmas presents, however there is some concern that this could cause conflict with the school photos as these bring in revenue for the school as well.

It was suggested that if we go ahead with the photo sessions that we source an alternative venue as the let for the school is prohibitively expensive, and there are not enough hours in the PTA entitlement to cover a full day.

It was decided to plan a photo shoot prior to Mother's Day, but not to advertise it until after the school photos so as not to impact on the uptake of school photos. Dale will speak to the photographers and get possible dates.

## **Puppet Show**

Clare has contacted a number of entertainers to obtain quotes for putting on a show for the nursery at Christmas this year.

The nursery currently have “Mr Barking coming” in at Christmas. He performs a sing along show. Shows are 45 minutes long and he can put on AM and PM shows at a cost of £80 for one show, or £150 for two.

“Mick Magic” can put on a 45 minute show for £145 per session, a 75 minute session plus balloons for £195, or a 2 hour session plus Santa for £295.

“Alexander the Greatest” can accommodate a maximum of 60 children at a time. There are three options:

- 1) A 1 hour session comprising 45 minutes of magic entertainment and 15 minutes of balloons for £130;
- 2) a 2 hour session comprising option 1 plus games and a disco for £200;
- 3) a 2 hour session with games, disco and balloons for £250, facepainting can be added in for £55 for 1 hour or £85 for 2 hours.

“It’s in the bag” can accommodate 30 children at a push at £145 for a 45 minute session.

## **Thrift Shop**

Clare advised that the Thrift Shop has raised £93 which has already been added to the uniform account, with an additional £10 collected since the start of term.

Plenty of donations have been coming in, but more is still needed. Clare advised that at present she is not collecting trousers, skirts etc. and is focussing on the top half. She is planning to choose a day in the next few weeks to bring all current stock into the school to allow people to browse for what they need.

## **AOB**

The parent survey results showed that there is still some interest in the medium night, and Dale will contact her for possible dates. Other suggestions for events included a race night or casino night. It was decided that February is probably the best month to hold this, but it will be discussed further at the meeting in October.