

2011-05-24

Montpelier school PTA Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2011

Present: Jane Hillmen (Chair), Riyadh Alkhazvaji, Kate Jackson, Andrew Hurford, Candace Brook, Sarah Mitchell, Mona Jamal, Jackie Field, Enya Glanz, Adeeba Khan, Samer Khlioui, Teresa Redonds-Lopez, Melanie Sturge, Sunita Patel, D Polydorou, Hamid Omar, Tasneen Outten, Am Rai, Venita Singh-Warner, Emma Parker, Anna Wood (Secretary).

Apologies: Richard Piercey, Janine Neye, Tamsin Connett, Kate Grenfell

FINANCE REPORT (Andrew Hurford/ Riyadh Alkhazvaji/Mel Sturge)

The total fundraising income for 2010/11 to date was £8586.10. The last non-uniform day had raised around £500. Over £1000 had been raised for the Quiz Supper which was very successful. A financial summary by stall of the Fete 2010 was received.

Outstanding bills were the Isle of White trip and the printing of the School calendar.

The closing balance was £21,755.69, most of which was in the bank.

2. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT (Am Rai/Enya Glanz)

The school was developing links as part of its participation in the Global School Partnerships and had received some visiting teachers as part of the programme.

The School was participating in the Reach-To-Teach programme which was a charity set up to create sustainable schools in remote, rural communities across the world.

Montpelier was sponsoring the construction of one of the schools. The programme also offered secondment opportunity for teachers.

The school had established a Managed Learning Environment (MLE) which would be formally launched towards the end of the summer term. The school would be asking for feedback from parents.

Term dates for 2011/12 had been distributed to parents. It was noted that the last day of the summer term in 2012 was a Monday.

Information on the different high schools that the children had been accepted at would be made available shortly. This would not contain numbers at each school as this information kept changing.

New areas of the school website had been developed. Recordings had been uploaded to the home page. The school management team were currently considering how children's images would be used on the school website and would take a clear approach with parents regarding what was involved. The school was also test running a Twitter feed which was currently linked to from the 'About Us' section of the website. This was part of a general drive to enhance communication with parents. A comparison with other local schools showed that Montpelier's range of communications was favourable and parents were broadly satisfied.

Agreed: that there should be a link from the home page of the website that invited parents to subscribe to the school newsletter. (Action: Am Rai)

The Isle of White trip for the Year 5s had been very successful but there had been a significant rise in parents asking for financial assistance, which was currently a

discretionary fund. For next year, a new criteria would be applied with parents who asking for financial assistance either had children with eligibility for free school meals or who had exceptional circumstances. Allowing parents to pay the £260 by instalments was also thought to be of help to many.

Agreed: that a lump sum in the budget based upon the new criteria would be set aside for financial assistance for this trip. (Action: Treasurers/Am Rai)

The CPZ had not been approved. There would be yellow zig zags outside the Mount Avenue gate by September and those already marked on Helena Road, extended to the corner. The school had asked for a CCTV camera to be established outside the Mount Avenue entrance.

The KS1 School Council asked the PTA to fund a graphics trolley for playtime to include felt-tips, coloured pencils, pipe cleaners etc.

Agreed: to allocate £200 to fund the graphics trolley.

The KS2 School Council wished to zone the school playground by containing the playtime sports activity into a sealed off area, which would take up less than half the playground. This area would be for multi-sports and would contain markings, nets etc. The current plan for this area was a sealed off area by a 3m tall 'cage'. This would cost £24k including markings but Astroturf would double the price. The PTA was asked if it could make a 30% (£8k) contribution towards the original cost.

The project provoked much debate amongst the committee; while some members were supportive of the proposal, others were concerned about the 'cage's' appearance and the amount of space it would take up and wished to explore other options. The school management were very much supportive of the proposal which would help mitigate any behavioural issues at lunchtime and would support the children's own wishes to have sports (particularly football) contained in one area.

Agreed: to support the proposal in principle including the 30% funding allocation but asked the management team to use the fete to showcase possibilities and gauge popularity.

3. Fete – saturday 25 june 2011

3.1 The raffle tickets would be distributed this Friday and stall allocations would be known shortly. The school would use Monday and Friday assemblies to get the children involved. Storage jars needed to be collected (no glass) and the deadline for the poster competition would be the Wednesday after half-term. It was agreed that given the current financial climate, expectation on fete fundraising needed to be managed. The admission charge would therefore be reduced to £2 this year.

4. CAKE SALE – 27 MAY 2011

4.1 Food boxes would be available to collect from the stage from tomorrow. More volunteers for selling cakes were needed and Tas would ask class reps to send out an email asking for help. Cakes would either cost 50p or £1.

5. Non-Uniform Day- Fri 27 May 2011

5.1 Non-uniform day was scheduled for the above day and continued to be an 'easy-win' in terms of fundraising, generally bringing in around £500 each time.

6. YEAR 6 LEAVERS' EVENTS

6.1 The Yearbook was still thought to be a great leaving gift. Venita agreed to co-ordinate the printing for this year. (Action: Venita Singh-Warner)

6.2 One parent had raised environmental concerns over the balloon release. This matter was given some consideration but as environmentally-friendly balloons were used, and both the children and the parents found this celebratory event very moving, it was agreed to continue as planned with the release.

7 AOB

7.1 A skipping workshop was suggested which had been popular at other schools and would help improve children's fitness and well-being. The cost would be £1050 for all classes in the school.

7.2 Agreed: to fund the skipping workshop with the proviso that parents would be asked to contribute £1 towards the event. The school would co-ordinate the arrangements.

7.3 The PTA were asked if they could sponsor the production of the Foundation Stage Yearbook. These were learning journals which contained photos, descriptions and 'Wow' forms etc. They were given to children at the end of their reception year.

7.4 Agreed: to allocate £258 for the Foundation Stage Yearbook.

7.5 A couple of fundraising ideas had arisen including a new pizza company on Pitshanger Lane, Pizza Piccolo, who said they would donate 50p to the Montpelier PTA each time someone claimed to be a Montpelier parent who bought a pizza. While this was thought to be a good idea in principle, it was not possible to monitor and the businesses would instead be asked to sponsor the fete each year instead. Fundraising ideas would be looked again in more detail at the AGM.

8 Date of NEXT meeting

The next meeting would be the AGM in September/October. This date would be set in due course.