

minutes

Snaresbrook Preparatory Parents and Teachers Association

1st Meeting - Autumn Term Meeting 2013/14

Tuesday 8 th October 2013	8pm	Year 3 classroom, Snaresbrook Preparatory School
Attendees	Mr Curl, Mrs Higgins, Anne Petersen, Anita Berkeley, Michelle Van Lint, Ritu Parti, Ceri Thompson, Sandeep Patel, Jarik Brandt, Eleanor Gebhardt, Parm Bhachu, Vicki Johal, Jing Dang, Michelle Wells	
Apologies	Mavis Oti-Addo-Boateng,	
Circulation List	All of the above, other PTA Committee Members and Friends of the PTA	
1. Welcome and Introductions:		
AP welcomed those attending the meeting and email addresses were taken.		
2. Update on the use of the funds allocated to the school in the last meeting		
Details of how the funds were spent last term were discussed, £300 had been given to each class and teachers decided on how funds were spent: Nursery and Reception had an entertainer and went out for Pizza, Year 1 and 2 had a Dreamcatcher Party, Year 3 & 4 had a trip to Tower Bridge and saw a film at the BFI Imax Cinema, Year 5 purchased some books and had a visit from the Author David Almond. Year 6 Took a trip to the Peacock Theatre.		
3. Time for a new Constitution?		
<p>The old constitution from 1984 is arguably out of date. It stated that teachers could vote at PTA meetings; that there should be 12 official PTA representatives; that the objective to advance the children's education, which may not be the reason for the schools bi-yearly school fête. To bring the constitution in line with the workings of the current PTA, it is suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) we change our objective to be about the children's enjoyment of school life and clearly state that the association should not be funding school essentials. b) we change from a PTA to a PA (a Parent Association) and give Mr Curl and Mrs Higgins observer status. c) we keep PTA/PA management to Secretary, Treasurer and Chair (the old constitution includes a deputy Chair). All parents and guardians of children at the school will remain born members of the association and can participate in the activities and meetings as they please. d) There should be opportunity for every member to vote online whenever money 		ALL

is about to be allocated to the school from the PTA/PA.

A new constitution can be adopted at the next General Meeting, which will be in January.

The above points were discussed, no vote was taken each member would be able to look at the proposed new constitution and could vote at the next Meeting.

Points discussed from the old constitution were:

It didn't cover what was needed.

There were no provisions for how to dissolve the PTA/PA should it be required or what to do when someone steps down.

Clarification on exactly what the PTA/PA was for – relationships and advance education etc. Christmas Party etc. Looking to do extra things that school wouldn't normally do, make kids happy and enhance children's happiness at school. In line with what the PTA has been doing for a number of years already.

On parent-teacher involvement, for years, parents alone have voted. Moving forward as a PA it would still be important to have teacher involvement but as bystanders. This is strongly backed by Mr Curl and either he or Mrs Higgins would try and attend the Meetings going forward.

Proposed name of Association: Snaresbrook Prep Parents Association (SPPA).

Should there be a Deputy Chair? It was decided, that this was not practical as it had always been difficult to get even three representatives for the PTA. If the need arises, it was decided that another member of the committee could step in.

It was re-iterated that all parents and guardians have a vote; it would be fairer and more acceptable that all were given the opportunity to vote, instead of the responsibility being left with the few members present at the meeting. An on-line voting system would be set up, giving a vote for each child, Yes/No votes would be avoided, people would vote on suggestions. We will adopt the "One vote for each child" as a trial as different children in a family may have opposing wishes.

4. Confirmation of who will be the PTA representatives for each Year

The suggestion of a representative for each year was discussed, it was agreed the following would represent the appropriate year:

Nursery – Vicki Johal

Reception - Kim Donnelly

Year 1 - Elena Gebhardt

Year 2 - Ritu Parti Year 3 - Parm Bhachu Year 4 - Ceri Thompson Year 5 - Michelle Van-Lint Year 6 - Sofia Khan (agreed after meeting)	
5. Bingo Night	
Bingo night was discussed and all agreed it would be a nice event, it was agreed to go ahead in the new year, some dates were suggested and it would be confirmed at a later date	MV-L AB
6. Christmas Decorations	
Decoration of the School Hall was discussed, the theme this year was to be Baubles. A request will go out to each Class for them to make and contribute some decorations for the hall. The previous years decorations need to be located and checked. Though Marianne Manning was not at the meeting, she had previously agreed to coordinate the decoration of the hall. Volunteers would be needed and a request would be sent out after half term. The date set to decorate the hall Friday 29 th November.	MM
7. Children's Christmas Party	
Volunteers would be needed for the event, especially for the second party as historically this had been more difficult to staff. A meeting would need to be held in the near future to assign duties. CT agreed to book DJ.	CT AP
8. Next Meeting date.	
The next meeting was to be January 14 th 2014	AP
AOB	
This year we will be holding our Summer Fête, it was suggested that Cycling might be the theme, as the Tour De France would be coming through Woodford in 2014. Meetings would need to be scheduled and ideas put forward. Further ideas for fundraising were requested. Mr. Curl agreed to ask teachers at the next staff meeting. A suggestion for having pictures of the PTA/PA representatives on the school website was put forward. The general consensus was that each Class would know who their representative was and therefore there was no real need to add their picture. All present were reluctant to be photographed anyway.	ALL