

Members in attendance

9am – Janet Baker (JB), Pauline Wallace (PW), Angela Kunjiraman (AK), Elen Williams (EW) & Adam Redgrove (AR)

6pm – Janet Baker (JB) & Angela Kunjiraman (AK)

Others in attendance

9am – 16 parents/carers

6pm – 2 parents/carers

Apologies

9am – Michael Paulin (MP)

6pm - Pauline Wallace (PW), Elen Williams (EW) & Adam Redgrove (AR), Michael Paulin (MP)

Minutes of the last meeting**- After school clubs**

It was noted that languages are not a statutory requirement. 12 pupils attended first block of sessions of Spanish and 2 going forward. Previously children at CET were taught Spanish. There is a TA at the school who is able to teach Spanish. There are questions around ages that can be taught. Yrs 3, 4, 5 were offered Spanish. There is also interest in Arabic, Italian and French being taught.

Action - JB to look into Spanish for KS1 and KS2 separately. Any parents who are able to teach a foreign language school club please volunteer.

- School lunches

The school has discussed this with catering, and they are looking into making more of the favourites. There is always food available so food does not run out.

After school club – provision of snacks. JB suggested that parents can bring in fruit and drink for their child to eat at the club.

Action - JB to confirm this to parents/carers in a newsletter.

- Email group for Academy Council

Has been set up to facilitate communication directly with academy council members.

Action - JB to confirm this to parents/carers in a newsletter.

Agenda items

- After school clubs

AK noted that they are looking for music teachers to be able to offer this.

Action - Parents to advise if they know if people who may be willing to offer this.

Multi-sports – The number of pupils who signed up would not have covered the cost of the coach. Foundation Sports provide the coaches and have offered to try and obtain funding from Lottery for sports activities. Could be offered as lunch time clubs and afterschool club.

Action - Feedback welcome from parents from multi-sports or football. Why was this club not taken up?

Creative writing club is run by QMUL students who have requested new intake each time as they are delivering the same sessions.

- Homework

Some parents have suggested that the homework is “dry”. Some parents have noticed that there is repetition with the homework. Parents would like more imaginative homework. Homework is given as individual sheets rather than in an exercise book. Suggestion for more interactive homework that parents can get involved in the homework too e.g. photographing images from the park, going on a walk and writing about it.

Action – JB to look into some more project based homework

JB advised that homework is intended to consolidate learning. Usually linked to grammar, spelling and maths. Reception are given a book to save homework being lost. A desire for all pupils to have homework books to preserve and track homework was noted by parents although it was noted that it takes time to put homework in a book. Pauline suggested that this can be raised at the education committee.

Action – PW and JB to discuss at the next Education Committee meeting.

Reading books – It was also noted that some children choose the same book on several occasions.

Action – JB to raise with teachers to ensure children are reminded to take a different book.

- Maths Mastery

Questions were raised regarding the suitability of the Maths Mastery programme and why other programmes hadn't been adopted. JB noted that she had first witnessed the programme working 5 years ago at a pioneer school. It was trialled in Culloden and found to be very successful.

Ocean maths is not used as this generates additional work for teachers and is not considered suitable for this school. Maths Mastery takes the form of a 6 part lesson – transitions involve singing and moving around between aspects of the lesson. Maths Mastery provide teaching material.

Parents are concerned that they have not been invited into the school and therefore not able to see maths and support their children at home.

Action - JB confirmed that Parents will be invited into the school and will see a maths lesson and learn about how maths is taught.

JB noted that the focus on school improvement means that sometimes these things are delayed, but the intention is that they still happen when the time is right.

- Ensuring representation within the Academy Council & Governance

PW (member of board of directors) is the link-Director for Solebay. Each academy has a link Director. AR is also a member and Parent Director. The Academy Council is in its first year of existence and was set up to replace the Local Governing Board to ensure better use of time and resources. Key issues arising out of the Academy Council meetings are taken by JB/PW/AR to committee or board meetings as required and to ensure the views of parents/carers is represented.

Parent governors were elected and one was co-opted as had skills that were anticipated to be helpful for the school. Three parent governors were kept on as Academy Council members and they chose to co-opt an additional two members who had expressed an interest.

- Parental visits

The lack of opportunity for parents to visit the school to observe lessons, assemblies etc was discussed. JB agreed that such opportunities has been limited to date due to the focus on school improvement, however there is an intention to address this during the summer term and for the next school year. ***(Post meeting note – A letter confirming dates for visits has since been distributed to parents/carers.)***

Parental workshops – Parents/carers expressed a desire to better understand the content of subjects being taught and teaching methods being used in order to be able to better support their children with homework etc.

Action - **JB agreed to look into organising one or two initial parent sessions after drop-off to check levels of interest/attendance before making further arrangements.**

AOB

- Attendance reward scheme

The current arrangements for rewarding 100% attendance were discussed at length. There was general agreement that the current arrangement is unfair on those pupils who are unwell enough not to attend school for the odd day or so during the school year. It was also noted that in some instances the prospect of failing to achieve 100% is such that some pupils have attempted to disguise or 'play-down' illness. Various alternatives to the current arrangements were discussed however it was evident that these would either defeat the purpose of the reward scheme or leave it open to challenge. JB agreed that in some instances this reward scheme can be unfair however it is a key measure used across the Trust to help improve/maintain attendance and subsequently increase teaching time. JB noted that the school uses various other reward schemes for other aspects of school life and on some occasions these are used to help offset instances where pupils have 99% attendance or similar. JB advised that the school were open to any other suggestions as to how to adjust the current attendance reward scheme without compromising its primary purpose. **It was concluded that the current scheme will continue and if appropriate, further suggestions could be discussed at the next meeting.**

- Accidents at school

The school's procedure for dealing with accidents at school was discussed. It was noted that there had been a number of instances where miscommunication has occurred between the school/parents/carers. During a recent AC meeting it was confirmed that copies of the accident book were available to parents/carers as and when requested, however it was suggested that accident slips should be issued to parents/carers as part of standard procedure. JB agreed this to be an appropriate suggestion.

Action - Accident slips to be issued to parents as soon as possible after the event.