

School Council Meeting

Minutes of the 17th December 2004

1. Bob Paul opened the meeting as Chair. He explained to the Council what had been done with their suggestions from the previous meeting. He informed them all that the minutes of the meeting, which were distributed so they could be taken back to their groups, were shown to Mr Gregory and Ms Pitts. Bob has had two meetings with them both to discuss things that had been suggested. He also explained that he would be giving a report in 'matters arising'.

Matters Arising

1. The Processes of the council.

Bob confirmed that, as suggested by the council, they would meet once a term. However rather than meeting at the end of each term it was better that they should meet in the middle weeks. This was agreed to be a good idea and Bob is going to find a suitable date.

2. Playground development suggestions.

As a lot of suggestions were centred around enhancing the playground and improving sports equipment, Bob reported that the school has been raising money for sometime to get a 5 aside pitch. Bob explained how the school doesn't just get given these things, and that we actually have to persuade people and fundraise for them. He explained how Cynthia was good at this and a lot of what we have is due to her efforts and persuasive manner. He mentioned that when we were finished fundraising for the 5-aside, then we could work on some of the other projects they had mentioned.

3. Bob reported that Mr Gregory and Ms Pitts had liked the idea about the Space hoppers and the play house for the younger children a great deal and were looking into trying to organise that.

4. The concerns about bullying.

The school recently tried to raise awareness of this following the points they raised by being involved with the national initiative of Anti-bullying week. Pupils made posters about bullying issues, questionnaires, discussion etc. Bob emphasised that they should pass on to their groups that the first thing they should do is tell an adult if they feel they are being bullied.

5. The issue of new computers.

The Council were very pleased that 5 new computers had been ordered and installed since their meeting to replace some of the older machines. They were keen that more were replaced.

6. School dinners.

Mark Webber and Allan Bridges met with the dinner supervisor on the Councils behalf where they raised the issues about the cutlery, the menu and whether improvement were going to be made to the kitchen. The supervisors and the Kitchen staff are looking in to it.

7. Longer Breaktimes

No progress on this at the moment.

8. Sensory garden

The breakages in the sensory garden are frequent enough and though repairs keep taking place, Bob suggested that if it continues, the school might have to look into getting something a little tougher and sturdy to resist damage.

9. Supporting Charities.

Bob reported that there were several planned events for charity. It was also reported that Mairi's class had been raising money for the Babe appeal for a children's hospital in Bristol. Bob reminded them that next term we have the Unicef Non-Uniform day, and gave a list of event that they might want to support. Everyone seemed to be in favour that the School support the Comic Relief day as the next big thing and were keen to continue supporting charities and causes in general

New Business.

Bob then suggested that each person went through the suggestions put in their link book and discussed them. As these overlap they have been categorised into similar areas

Bullying

Oliver's class had requested that something be done about bullying – specifically people kicking footballs really hard and less able students being able to get out of the way. There was a discussion on the fact that it is not always deliberate as the football area and the normal area.

Computers

Though pleased that there were some new computers, they were all keen that all computers and IT facilities were to be replaced or upgraded. This was a general consensus from all groups and they were pleased to hear the general plans to do this as funds allow.

Ben also requested a smart Board, if possible for the James Cainey's area in the ASD area.

Mark also requested a Smart Board for room 22

Michael reported his group had requested less filtering on the internet access.

Lunchtime – Break time clubs.

Oliver reported that inside area's would be appreciated at break time with things to do in them perhaps clubs.

Michael Chant reported that his group were also interested in maybe clubs at break time. Specifically an ICT club and Science Club were named.

Mark Pearce also had this suggestion from his group – requesting more activities or things to do at break or lunchtime.

A general discussion was considered of how to staff the clubs. Bob said he would bring this to CP and DG's attention as this was the main problem in actually doing anything. Never the less, the whole council were keen about this topic.

Michael Chant reported that his group had suggested a Tuck shop at break time. The trial one run last year had been popular but they recognised that it had shut down to difficulties. The Council discussed the possibility of vending machines, possibly with more healthy snacks and drinks in them as an alternative.

Playground

Shaun Mathias reported that the younger ones of Mairi's class would like another 'rocket' like the one in the playground.

They would also like more seats there – but seats that face each other so they can talk. They would also like a sandpit, and they would like the Wendy house repaired.

Mark W also requested new goal posts for the large playground

Resources

Oliver's group want more interesting and interactive books. Other council members agreed.

Ben's group thought that a fish tank would be interesting and relaxing, particularly for the ASD area. They thought it would also teach responsibility.

Mark W reported that Rm 22 group would like more pens and pencils in their room and Play station 2. This was treated as unlikely by other members of the council.

Mark W also suggested that Rm 22 have an area that has an actual lock on the door for valuables as there have been issues with things disappearing and this might help solve it.

Minibus

Oliver reported that the seat belts in the minibus are unmanageable. They are very tight, cannot be easily used and stick a lot to the point of being a problem. The entire Council agreed with this and suggested that it should be a priority.

Changing rooms and P.E.

Several of the Council members observed that the Boys changing rooms are very small and the Girls are comparatively large and yet there are very few girls to get changed. Between them all they suggested that it might be possible to turn them around so the boys have the larger changing room.

Mark W suggested that the pool should have more 'fun things' In his link book was the suggestion of a slide.

Lawrence suggested weight lifting and more gym equipment and that the pool in itself was shallow. The other Council members recognised that this may be for safety reasons.

Activities.

Oliver Norton's groups had requested that Leisure pursuits might be available to everyone.

There was a suggestion reported by Lawrence about whether there could be a KS3 bowling trip at some point and organised PE events such as long distance races that could be worked towards (children's 'marathon' and competitive events)

Marc reported that his group had requested that there were more visits out and that they had particularly enjoyed visiting performers and would like more of them if possible.

Uniform

Michael's group had noted in their link book that they would prefer no uniform. This was considered unlikely by the others. However, the group had suggested that there might also be some sort of different logo for Fosse Way school that could be put on the uniforms and this was agreed by everyone to be a good idea. It seemed that most thought the plain writing was uninspiring.

Dinner arrangements

Michael's group had sent a request that going up for dinner be looked at. They thought it might be better if people went on a first come first served basis rather than being sent up.

Andy Ledbury's group had suggested that to make the issue of going up to dinner fairer perhaps the tables could be assigned numbers and go up in a different rotation each week. This would mean that there wouldn't be chaos of everyone trying to be served at once and it should be fairer.

Natalie said there had been a request of whether they could have juice instead of / as well as water at lunch time.

Heating

Natalie requested that the Heating problems were looked into urgently. They have been finding it very cold in certain parts of the school.

Bob Paul thanked them all for their suggestions and reported that he would take them to Cynthia Pitts and David Gregory and would report back at the next meeting. He also emphasised the fact once again that in the event of some of the things they requested they might have consider the money required to do them, the resources and the manpower. He thanked them all for their input and sensible contributions.

Meeting ended 1.55pm