

School Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting 8th July 2005

The final school council meeting of the year.

Matters Arising

The sensory Garden.

Bob reported that he had taken their concerns to Mr Gregory. As a result they have asked Jo Simpson and some of the pupils who stay in the residential area to look after the Sensory Garden. There is an existing contract for B&NES to maintain it as part of the school grounds but it was felt it needed developing. Jo will discuss with Katharine about what is what might be suitable for the children who need sensory support.

The 5-a-side pitch is being built and is about a week away from being finished which is good news.

The requests for fitness equipment were taken to James Caine by Bob and Jame said there were a few problems with it in that 1) it was very expensive 2) You needed properly trained people to run it. However he did point out one of the Year 10 options is Fitness where they go to the new gym at Writhlington. There is potential for a Fitness club, or perhaps there will be the capability for pupils to join that gym independently. We will ask James to try and find out costs when he is next down at Writhlington with a group.

The water fountain issue – Mr Gregory agreed that this wasn't good as it was at the moment. He has asked Suzy to look into the possibility of a water cooler for the pupils place near the doors to the playground. He is keen that this is put in place. Bob informed them that he had been told that all the water from the taps in the school was drinkable

Laurence brought up that some of the filtered sites that had been mentioned were still not unfiltered. Vicky reported that Adrian had had to put quite strict filtering on because of some virus problems and that pupils would need to make a list of the sites they wanted unfiltered. It was decided that the school council reps would ask their groups to come up with a list of places that they would like unfiltered which would then be passed through a teacher and then to Adrian if approved to be unfiltered.

New Business.

Premises issues.

Allan reported that sometimes people with wheelchairs had difficulty getting over the metal kerb inside the back gate. He asked that this be looked into.

It was reported by all members that there were some chairs in the science room were split and nasty. They could be painful and pinch the skin. Everyone agreed this was a problem. Apparently some replacement chairs that came were too high and others need to be ordered.

Bob asked that if they see any more premises issues that are urgent to tell Andy or a teacher to get it dealt with as soon as possible.

The water feature in the Sensory Garden is broken and they would particularly like to see that fixed as soon as possible

It was mentioned that chairs in the computer room are uncomfortable to sit on for long periods of time. Apparently when there is a long session in the ICT suite, it can be quite distracting and uncomfortable. They recognised that the swivel chairs, though comfortable had problems in that people would mess around with them, but they were wondering if there could be more comfortable chairs there.

Miscellaneous

There was another request for fruit juice at dinner time as well as water.

It was requested that the boys be allowed to wear shorts in the extremely hot weather. They said they were allowed to last year and would like to know why they couldn't if they were sensible black shorts. Bob said he would ask Mr Gregory.

Jenny O'Dares class requested that the area outside their classroom be developed, with more rockers, bouncers and a garden area.

There were more requests for different things on the playground, specifically a climbing frame. Laurence reported that there was a pyramid type one at Margaret Coates centre that has all the safety features in it.

It was also suggested that they would like the merit slips to be redesigned so they felt that they were actually getting something. The Council decided it would be a good idea to do a competition for the pupils to design one, and then have a vote on the best one and use it. Everyone thought this was a good idea.

The Questionnaire

Bob showed the members of the Council the questionnaire that he had put together and explained that it was to see if other people in the school were aware of what changes the Council had helped with and what they knew about it. He asked them to look through it and it was agreed that it was sensible and should go out to all pupils who were able to do it.

Council elections.

The council then discussed how representatives would be chosen for the next year as obviously some of the council representatives would be leaving. It was decided that tutor groups needed to vote for their representative or advocate in September prior to the first meeting.

Bob then thanked all of the representatives there for all their hard work, contributions and discussions. Refreshments were provided as an expression of thanks. He emphasised the changes that they have helped to make and that staff genuinely are interested in what they have to say and what they can do through the council. All the Council members agreed that they thought the School Council was worthwhile and would like to be on it again should they be voted in.

Bob will arrange a Certificate of Achievement for those who have served as representatives.
Meeting ended 1.55pm