

ST MICHAEL'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2011

Present: Mr. Richard de Figueiredo (Headmaster), Mr. Simon Vivian (Chairman), Mrs. Rachel Atherton (Secretary), Mrs. Valerie Stone (Pre Prep A), Mrs. Nicky Horsfall (Pre Prep B), Mrs. Anneli Gaynor (Pre Prep C), Mrs. Caroline Ambler (Form 2), Mrs. Yvette Jones (Form 3), Mrs. Suzy Vivian (Form 4), Mrs. Sue Beaumont (Form 6).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs. Charlotte May (Nursery), Mrs. Catherine Bale (Form 1) and Mrs. Melanie Drummond (Form 5).

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2010

Mr. Vivian proposed approval of the above minutes, Mrs. Atherton seconded the proposal and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Matters Arising

Mrs. Vivian wanted to follow up the computer activity agenda point from the Association's September meeting, the Headmaster confirmed that no action had been taken yet but that the matter was a work in progress.

The headmaster formally thanked all those involved in the Christmas sale, which was once again very successful and had been very well organized by Mrs. Karen Clark and Mr. McAviney.

Matters for Discussion

i. School policy re bullying

The headmaster informed the meeting that the school's policy is currently being reviewed as part of a curriculum review requested by the school governors. Ofsted has licensed the ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) to monitor private schools in Jersey and whilst the schools are under no obligation to follow their guidelines, St Michael's is keen to do so. Parents will be able to inspect the school's new policy on bullying as soon as it is available. At present the school encourages children to report all bullying straight to the school via teachers rather than through parents. The headmaster wants to know of all incidents first hand and wants the children to take the initiative and tell a teacher or staff member rather than parents. All reported incidents are taken very seriously and dealt with immediately.

ii. School minibus at 6.20pm.

A parent had been disappointed by the failure to organise a 6.20pm minibus. It was again explained that the parent response to the idea had been very low with only a handful of families interested. The school had provided contact details of those who registered an interest so that they could organize something among themselves and it was suggested that perhaps it would be possible for the concerned

parent to take charge of the project and get it off the ground.

iii. Royal wedding Bank Holiday

Several parents had asked if it would not be possible to return to school after the bank holiday rather than returning for just one day. The headmaster explained the schools on the island were split over the decision to open with some extending the holiday to include the public holiday and others like St Michaels maintaining the original term date. The school feels it is important for the children to return as many have exams to prepare for and lessens the disruption for parents and employers.

iv. Provision of milk

Many parents were upset that the milk had been withdrawn and would like it to be reinstated even if they have to pay for it. The headmaster explained its withdrawal was part of the cuts to the States Education budget, as it is felt that children today have adequate diets provided at home and no longer need the milk supplement. The school has no plans to reintroduce the milk.

v. Use of art overalls

Parents are upset with the amount of paint that is marking their children's clothes and it would seem that they are not being made to wear overalls. The headmaster will ask all staff to ensure the children wear overalls.

vi. Condition of the car park during the snow

It was noted by several parents that during the snowy weather the car park was very slippery and the snow had not all been cleared. The headmaster explained that the school's priority had been to clear the walkways and there had not been time to clear the whole playground although they had done their best. The children were not allowed out to play until the snow was cleared.

vii. Text cascade system/email notification during the snow

The headmaster said that details of new communication methods would be included in the end of term mailing. At present information concerning the opening hours of the school during the bad weather was given on the school telephone and local radio, which seemed to be effective. Over the course of the next year, the school is looking at a commercial text system to provide information to parents.

viii. Provision of pre/after school care and supervised homework room

A Pre Prep A parent had asked if the school had ever considered any pre/post school care. The headmaster explained that the school day is long enough already for the children and as such the school would not provide such care. Several parents with children with older siblings finishing at different times had asked if they could use the new small dining room from 3.30pm to 4.15pm for the children to do their prep while they are waiting, supervised by their parents. They would like a quiet area where they can sit down. The headmaster agreed that it should be possible to find a suitable area and he will find some alternatives and report back.

ix. Paper recycling boxes in the classrooms

The headmaster reported that there are already boxes in the classrooms and are about ten in the whole school. The children know how to use the boxes but he will arrange an assembly to remind them.

x. Amendment to Association Constitution

Mrs. Atherton reported that yet again it had been very difficult to achieve a quorum for the Association's AGM and proposed changing the number required for a quorum. The headmaster noted that in the past there had been some objections to reducing the number. It was agreed to hold an EGM at the next committee meeting to propose the change, notice of the EGM must be given to all members and will be included in the end of term mailing. Mrs. Atherton noted that a quorum must be achieved to hold the EGM.

xi. Summer Ball update

The summer ball committee asked if they could keep the flowers that the children bring in to decorate the classrooms at the end of term and also Paula's table decorations from the marquee. It was agreed that this should not be a problem. The headmaster will arrange for the marquee decorators to have access to the marquee from 4pm on the day of the ball. It was agreed a flyer will be included with the end of term mailing and again at the beginning of term about buying tickets for the ball, Mrs. Vivian would liaise with Claire Taylor in the office. The committee also reported that Pre Prep are to design the tickets, the committee would speak to the teachers. The committee also asked if the office would be happy to sell tickets and take the cash, it was agreed that the school would handle the money taken and prepare the accounting for the event. It was requested that all form reps remind parents of the ball and the need for parents help.

Any Other Business

There was no other business

Date of next committee meeting: Thursday 19th May 2011 at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.11pm

Chairman