



Cavendish PTA



Minutes for Cavendish PTA meeting 14.01.2015

Present: Dawn Lappin (DL - Chair), Catherine McKinnon, Jen Barnes (Secretary), Helen Burton, Tania Rocha, Bridget Moss, Rob King, Julia Henderson, Rachael Myers, Helen Cooper, Janet Marland, Simon Manning (SM - Treasurer)

Apologies: Caroline McGilliard, Nicola Sherlock, Cath Alnuamaani

Treasurer's Report

The Christmas fair was very successful, making a profit of just over £2,000. The PTA bank balance is now standing at just over £4,500.

The £1,200 that was agreed in principle at the last meeting to facilitate involvement of either Y4 or Y5 in an orchestral project at the Bridgewater with the orchestra of St Petersburg is no longer required as only one class could have attended and so Cavendish withdrew.

Need to file the PTA accounts with the charity commission ASAP, need the Trustee Annual Report (TAR) approving by Janet Marland. SM has found an accountant (Andrea Csanyi) who is willing to audit the accounts at the end of Jan free of charge. **Action: SM**

Events

Valentines Disco 2015

Date of Friday 13th February was previously proposed due to hall availability. However, a hall may now be free on Thursday 12th February which was a more popular day. Janet Marland to check and confirm hall availability. **Action: JM**

Sub-committee to be formed ASAP, DL to request volunteers via email. **Action: DL**

Previously tickets have been sold on ParentPay in order to control numbers (hall capacity is considered to be ~ 250) and then a list printed by the office to be used to confirm who's paid on the day. Tickets are usually £1. Janet Marland to confirm that office is happy to help organise ParentPay. **Action: JM**

The disco would run 5-7 pm with the first half hour for nursery/Reception children only.

Suggestions for the event were: hot drinks, ice-cream float drinks, tuck, hot dogs or 'meal deal' bags. Helium balloons were also suggested as there are some in the PTA cupboard. SM has a contact who sells a helium canister for £60 but need to work out costs to see if this would break even. **Action: Sub-Committee**

DL has started investigating DJ price and availability, Helen Cooper said she had the telephone number for the previous DJ as he might be cheaper if booked directly rather than via an agency. **Action: DL/HC**



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Didsbury Festival 2015

Think that this will be on Saturday 6th June as it's usually the first Saturday after summer half term.

Cavendish has not had a presence for the past couple of years, mainly due to leaving insufficient time to plan. DL keen to be more involved this year especially with respect to the procession.

SM said that a double pitch cost ~ £80 and that a generator (diesel!) for the bouncy castle would be a similar amount.

Janet Marland said that she would contact Jane Crawshaw to request details and feedback to the PTA.

Action: JM

"Railings Rally"

Parent has suggested holding an event to spruce up the school railings, and investigating if any companies would donate materials (paint etc).

Janet Marland said that maintenance of the railings was on Gary's radar, and she would talk to him to see what was involved (e.g. there may be issues with lead paint, or other H&S considerations). **Action:**

JM

SM said he could talk to Paul and Sian at Withington Baths to see how they had managed maintenance of their railings. **Action: SM**

Quiz night

Proposal to hold another quiz night in April/May. Michelle may be willing to organise and run this as previously, Janet to check. **Action: JM**

Was suggested that Namaste might be interested in assisting with food.

Teachers Requests for Funds

a) Update about Nursery and Reception waterproofs



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At the previous meeting it was agreed to fund replacement of waterproofs for both Nursery and Reception as the current ones are becoming very old and tatty. Plan to invest in 80 new sets for Nursery and 40 for Reception and a maximum spend of £2400 was approved. The waterproofs haven't yet been purchased as staff are still researching to ensure they get the best price. The money has been transferred to the school's 'PTA pot' and so doesn't need to be subtracted from the £4500 balance.

Action: Rachael Myers and Helen Cooper

b) Request from Helen Cooper – Ice Rink

Reception would like to hire a portable ice rink to complement their current topic on 'hot and cold'. The intention is that the rink would be made available to all children in the school. Cheapest price found so far is £1300 for 1 day or £1875 for 2 days. This price includes staff, skates, penguins, installation, insurance, first aid provision etc. A 10m x 10 m rink can take up to 35 skaters at one time, a 10m x 15m rink can take up to 54 skaters.

It was suggested that a two-day hire could be over a Friday and a Saturday, with the Saturday opened up to families and the local community. However, it was felt that the timescales were a little too tight (as would want to have the rink before February half term) to organise a PTA-run Saturday event. Instead the 12th and 13th of February was proposed, which would provide an exciting end to this half term.

Was agreed that if the school requested a voluntary donation from parents of ~£3 per child then the PTA would fund any difference. It was estimated that this would be of the order of £600 - £800. SM queried whether the PTA would need to fund the upfront cost and then be reimbursed with the parental contribution.

Helen Cooper to confirm prices, insurance and any issues with weather-dependency (there is no roof on the rink) and feed back to the PTA. **Action: HC**

All agreed and approved funds in principle.

c) Request from Rob King - Defibrillators

Rob raised the possibility of purchasing defibrillators for the school. This is something that will probably never be needed, but if needed could be life-saving. The cost is around £1,000 each and two would be needed for a site the size of Cavendish. It may be possible to gain funding from an organisation such as the British Heart Foundation (DL has a contact at BHF, will investigate) or see if United or City would have any interest in supporting. An alternative idea was to link this to health topics on the curriculum and hold an event such as a sponsored fun run around the school field to raise money. Rob King to research and develop the idea and report back to the PTA. **Action: RK**



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AOB

Update on New School Build

There are now floor plans available for a single-storey 8 classroom block – 9 classrooms was wanted to enable Reception to be relocated to the new facility, but the budget was not big enough to allow this. The design is the same as St John's primary school in Salford. It is a rectangular build with lots of natural light, classrooms are on either side with a wide central thoroughfare that would allow space for additional activities. However, cookery facilities (which are currently available in the Shawgrove Building) have not been included, and are currently the topic of debate. There is also no room for the kiln. Health & safety issues have been cited as the reason for not including a cookery room, but cookery is a statutory part of the curriculum. As the school currently offer both cookery and pottery, the new development is threatening to remove capacity which is the wrong direction to be heading. The impact of losing after school clubs associated with these activities would also have repercussions for many parents who rely on the clubs for wrap-around care.

It was proposed that the PTA could support the school by lobbying local councillors and MPs etc. The School Governors have already written a letter to John Edwards raising the need for a two storey building. The PTA could adapt this letter and voice concerns as parents and carers. It was recognised that many parents and carers would be supportive of this, but may not have the chance to send individual letters in the timescales required, so it was suggested that signatures could be gathered in the playground and attached to the letter. Janet Marland confirmed that there was no issue in using FaceBook and Twitter to publicise this. DL and Helen Burton (who works for Stockport Council) agreed to draft the letter. **Action: DL/HB**

On the 3rd February there is going to be a consultation evening at the school where the plans will be displayed to parent, carers and local residents. The design will then go to planning in mid February and if approved will be the final design. It was felt that it was important to voice parent concerns as soon as possible and ahead of the consultation evening in order to give the best chance of these being properly considered. This being the case, the intention is to send the PTA letter to the relevant persons by 23rd January.

On a different topic, the council have found funds to totally refurbish the Annex building (where after school club is held), which would include windows, roof (if required, but probably not needed), floor, heating, wiring, lighting etc. It is also thought that the kiln could be accommodated in the Annex as part of the refurbishment which is not the ideal solution, but would allow pottery activities to continue.

Social Media Policy

DL queried the school policy regarding promoting local third parties on the PTA FaceBook or Twitter accounts – for example, she had recently been contacted by a lady offering yoga classes for children.



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Janet Marland considered that it was best to avoid this unless the organisation was associated with the school, in the interest of safeguarding.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2015