



MINUTES OF ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 14th March 2018

Staff Present: Curtis Sweetingham (HT) Catherine Mitri (DHT)
Community representatives present: See separate register

Minutes: CM

Points discussed at the meeting:

- Action points:** The action points from the previous meeting were addressed. Mr. Sweetingham stated there were not too many and that he was continuing to evaluate the wording of any attendance letters sent out to parents/carers.
- Activity report:** The SJCA discussed the changes made to the EYFS outdoor learning area in that the new climbing equipment/lawn were aesthetically pleasing and provide challenge for the children. Mr. Sweetingham also spoke about the recent **Book Fair** and that unfortunately there was a possibility that commission from the sale of the books could be down as the school had to close early due to snow (commission last year was £270). One member of the SJCA asked if it could be rescheduled but this is not an option. Mr. Sweetingham stated that he had spoken to the World Book People recently as they had tried to change the date for next academic year meaning that the fair would not be in school on World Book Day. The request was denied and the planned dates will remain as first scheduled. A member asked if the next book fair could be held in a larger space as it was felt that the Learning Zone was too small, particularly for those families with pushchairs/buggies. A query was raised as to whether the Learning Space where the breakfast and after-school clubs are held could be used as it was suggested that a larger space with easier access from the playground could potentially increase sales/commission. The discussion continued and a suggestion was made that the ASC could be relocated for 30 minutes to allow the above suggestion to go ahead. Mr. Sweetingham continued by complimenting the new treasurer of the SJCA for his efficiency and that invoices were being dealt with very quickly.
- Non-uniform day:** The members discussed the logistics of organising an Easter fundraising event (Easter egg hunt) and it was agreed that this would be too difficult at such a late stage with the holidays approaching in 2 weeks. However, a non-uniform day has now been planned for the final day of the spring term and children will be asked to bring £1.00.

4. **Cinema night:** The SJCA discussed possible dates for the ever popular cinema night. A date of **Tuesday 1st of May 2018** was suggested. Mr. Sweetingham stated that he would confirm once he had looked at the school calendar. It was agreed that the children would be given three choices of movie and that these could be provided on the letter to parents to tick their choice so the school were aware of numbers and arrange suitable rooms/locations. A team would need to be arranged to help at this event. The members discussed purchasing a popcorn machine as this would save money in the long term. Along with the popcorn, it was agreed that a carton of squash/juice would be provided at a cost of £4.00 per child. As in previous years, the EYFS children would have their event in the YN/YR classrooms as Mrs. Stylianou chooses a shorter, more appropriate movie for the little ones. A member also suggested that proper popcorn boxes would make the event even more special and that perhaps someone should try and source them as a freebie from local venues.
5. **School dinners:** Mr. Sweetingham provided some really positive developments in relation to school lunches and the provider (IS). Food tasting had taken place at the Parent Consultation evening and new menus would be available very soon. Mr. Sweetingham continued by informing the SJCA that he had recently met with the director of the company and, in light of the meeting and the discussions, spot checks to ascertain the efficiency of the school kitchen and portion sizes had taken place with excellent feedback e.g. Mr. Clark providing excellent service, quality and quantities. He continued by informing the members that 2nd/3rd helpings should not be given to children. Mr. Sweetingham also informed the members that he was in negotiations with the company in relation to becoming a flagship school and that he was pleased with the communication the company was having with St John's. Possible developments could include decorators to design an area near the servery, investing small amounts of money into the kitchen e.g. new equipment, and children ordering their own meals each morning. A member raised a point about children who receive FSM in relation to portion sizes in that for these children it is sometimes their only meal of the day.
6. **KS2 playground:** Mr. Sweetingham provided the members with updates in relation to the plans for a climbing frame on the KS2 playground. His aim is to have this exciting venture completed/constructed as soon as possible. During the Parent Consultation Evenings, plans and costings for the proposed development had been laid out in the Learning Zone or the parents/children to view. Mr. Sweetingham continued by discussing the financial implications of raising such a large amount of money and that he was allocating some of the school budget and sports premium funding towards this project. He continued by requesting in the region of £5000 from the SJCA if this would be possible. The location of the climbing frame to avoid playground markings and ensure that there was still sufficient space for football, netball and other games was discussed. Mr. Sweetingham also stated that unfortunately as St John's was an LDBS voluntary aided school (not Barnet) that we would need to pay the VAT, which obviously

increased the amount of money needed to be raised for this playground project. A member queried the SJCA charity status in relation to the VAT, but Mr. Sweetingham responded by informing the members that anything that adds value to the LDBS school site then the VAT must be paid. The discussion continued about a crowd funding project online – a campaign using the Just Giving site – where a small charge for each donation would be made, but this can be gift aided. A marketing campaign was discussed that would possibly include the Levi Roots song (Reggae Reggae Sauce), which would inspire the children. Local businesses could also be approached and an appeal in the weekly newsletter to appeal to any parents who have marketing experience. Other fundraising opportunities were discussed with a suggestion of a Quiz Night (cocktail included). A suggestion was made that this should be scheduled for the beginning of the autumn term when new parents join the school.

7. **Summer Fete:** The date for the fete was confirmed as **Saturday 7th July 2018** with the theme of the circus linked to The Greatest Showman.
8. **SJCA secretary:** Currently Catherine Goumal is the SJCA secretary, but the amount of commitment required for this role is significant and Catherine is finding this difficult with work and home responsibilities. Catherine Jones kindly offered to support in any way she can with Mrs. Goumal leading.
9. **AOB:** The SJCA discussed the creation of an **Amazon list** of resources needed by the school. Mr. Sweetingham stated that he would work on this. The members also discussed the need for some form of **sun protection in both the playgrounds** as there is no place for the children to sit in the shade during hot weather.

Action Points HT/DHT:

- **CS to confirm date for the Cinema Night**
- **CS to create Amazon list of resources**

Action Points SJCA members:

- **Arrange team to help on Cinema Night.**

How has today's meeting moved the school forward?

- Progress being made in the raising of funds for the proposed climbing frame in the KS2 playground.
- Dates in school calendar for summer fete and cinema night.
- School dinner concerns are being dealt with speedily and the provider is working closely with Mr. Sweetingham to make significant changes to the current provision.

Next meeting: Wednesday 25th April at 8.00pm.