

Governor Drop in Minutes

Monday 14th March, 2016

Present

Yvette Mahon

Elizabeth Dormandy

4 parents and carers

Concerns raised

1) School lunches

- A parent raised the issue (which has also been a concern expressed at times by other parents) of inadequate provision of school lunches in terms of the quantity of food available to children. This is particularly an issue when a year group is the last group in - when food quantity and options available are much reduced. It was acknowledged that the school does rotate the order of entry to lunch, so this is shared out. The parents are pleased with the quality of school lunches. The parent also mentioned that the school had pledged to allow parents to come in to have/observe lunch with their children on occasion but that this had not happened.

Action

Raise with Mark/Cee

2) Mansfield Bowling club - Brookfield's lack of engagement

- A parent raised a question concerning Brookfield's prior lack of interest/engagement with the Mansfield Bowling club issue, despite lobbying by those involved (NB Nigel Bannerman did engage). Now that the issue is resolved positively, for the potential benefit of the local community, parents are keen to know whether Brookfield would be interested in making use of the reserved space as they are now putting together plans. Would Brookfield be able to give this group of parents a sense of what the school might ideally like to use the space for (if anything)? Brookfield would not be held to using the space, but all local schools are being consulted in this way so it is a real opportunity to put in a request/a bid for certain facilities.

Action

Raise with Mark/Haseeb

3) Homework policy

- A Y2 parent raised ongoing concerns about the excessive quantity of homework children continue to receive in her view (on top of reading, spelling, timestables). She recognised that the homework policy had been recently updated but feels frustrated that the school has not properly informed parents - about some evidence there exists - that homework offers limited benefit for primary children - until perhaps upper KS2. Even then for homework to have any value she said the evidence is that it should be about reinforcing learning that occurs in school and not about introducing new learning (and feels this is not what is happening). She mentioned the ongoing lack of feedback given when homework is completed and that this should be essential. She feels strongly that parents should be made aware of the evidence and that the next parental survey should more fully tackle the issue of homework. She made several proposals -

- That parents should be provided with the evidence/or lack of evidence regarding the effectiveness of homework

- That the next parent survey should seek responses separately (on the homework issue) from KS1 and KS2 parents. That this might more accurately reflect parent opinion about the quantity of homework given according to age.

- That some homework be 'optional'

Action

Raise with Mark/PSWB committee

4) Reception area

- Despite feedback from the last GDI that the Reception area is a 'work in progress', parents apparently remain concerned at the 'unexciting' content of the work currently being carried out and the slow progress on this. A parent also asked whether Reception staff have had sufficient input into the choice of activities/structures being put in place? The parent also asked whether Reception could not make use of the Nursery garden at times - as has happened in the past?

Action

Raise with Michelle/Seek response from Premises committee - on timeline of works and consultation with Reception staff.

5) Art provision

- A parent raised the question of whether there is space in the school for a proper Art Room (which might also double as a Science lab?). This was part of a larger concern that whilst FAB has been a great initiative for Brookfield - a more solid/consistent approach to Art would be welcome.

Action

Raise with LAC/Premises

6) PTA funds

- A question was raised - should the PTA not have more say over how money raised through the PTA is spent by the school?

Action

Raise with Mark