

Parent
Council



Fibbersley Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Parent
Council



Present:

C Boden (Chair of the Academy Council, Community Councillor and Year 2 Parent)

N Duffy (Parent Councillor and Y4 Parent)

A Guba (Year 2 parent)

C Worton (Year 2 and Year 5 parent)

T Fletcher (Reception, Year 3 and Year 5 parent)

D Salamone (Reception parent)

H Morley (Year 6 parent)

Mrs K Sugars

Apologies:

K Sayers (Y4 Parent)

L Cooper (Year 2 and Year 4 Parent)

Welcome for newcomers

Welcome and introductions were provided by all.

Feedback/Updates to 3rd Feb 2021 meeting

Feedback from Mrs Sugars regarding points raised at the last meeting on 3rd February 2021 had already been circulated to parent council members via email which included:

Remote Learning: All children are now back in school however the school remote learning offer was updated following feedback from parents and staff- this was published on the school website before February half term. Remote learning has been used once since returning to school in March.

My Maths: Thank you for the positive feedback regarding My Maths. Since returning to school in March, My Maths has been relaunched by Miss Reynolds. Teachers are sharing expectations/ reminders to parents on class charts.

Pupil Well-being: After February half term, a timetable for each year group was produced for parents to help support the work load at home. Staff sign posted activities alongside the timetable to support well-being.

Communication with parents: Twitter continues to be used by staff. School has now launched "class charts" which is a two-way communication system between home and school and a platform to report both positive and negative behaviour as well as announcing important whole school events. By the end of week 1 52% of parents have signed up to Class Charts. The school target is to sign up 90% of parents by the end of July- this will include new parents joining in September 2021. We are not considering "Facebook" at this time however this could be discussed later.

Star of the Week: Since 8.3.21 "Stars of the Week" have been presented again in assembly and the certificate outlines the reason. The newsletter is for an overall public recognition. Reading certificates will be introduced this term.

Fibbersley Radio: The Radio Club has been operating again since the start of the summer term and they are producing fortnightly shows with Mr Dewar. These are added to the school website. A link could be added to the school newsletter moving forward.

RHE: It is statutory for school to use the RHE policy from the summer term however due to COVID-19 schools are to choose the most important sections to meet the pupils needs for the remainder of the summer term. The curriculum for September is being remapped to include RHE planning.

Mrs Crawford's memorial: The memorial garden was opened by Mrs Crawford's family on 28th May. Staff, children and trust staff visited the garden and reflect on the passing of a friend, teacher and colleague. The event was covered by the local paper.

Wombles of Willenhall: Visitors are now allowed onto the school site, so it would be fine for the Wombles to talk to the children. On a couple of occasions, the Wombles have litter picked around the school entrance.

The Trust

A discussion was held regarding 'Victoria Academy Trust'. Questions raised by N Duffy included

- Are parents aware that Fibbersley Park is part of a MAT?
- What does the Trust actually mean to parents?
- Does being part of a MAT matter to parents?
- Did being part of Victoria Academy Trust influence parents decision in any way to apply for a school place for their child?

The majority of parents indicated that they had been made aware of the Trust as part of a welcome/open evening provided to new parents when children had started school in either Reception or Nursery. However since then it was felt that information sharing regarding the Trust had been limited. There was a common agreement amongst parents that being part of the Trust had not been an overriding factor in influencing parents to choose to send their child to Fibbersley.

PMI points

Plus

*Parents indicated that they had knowledge of VAT being referred to in the school OFSTED report and were also aware of the Trusts FIDES values and its NICER curriculum.

Minus

*Parents felt that they did not really fully understand how the Trust operates or the benefits or downsides of Fibbersley Park being part of the MAT

*One parent held the view that other schools in the Trust appeared to be tweeted about far more often than Fibbersley Park

*Parents did not feel it was important to receive news/information about updates/events occurring in other schools that are part of the trust.

*Other than having an awareness and understanding of the FIDES values and the NICER curriculum parents felt that they were not really aware of other Trust influences.

Interesting (and in Summary)

*If possible can parents to be invited to more regular presentations about the Trust and not just when parents are new to the school in Reception or Nursery regarding:

- Introduction to the CEO
- Governance
- Benefits of being part of the trust etc.

*Could there be at least one 'meet and greet' session held with parents by key individuals of the Trust – perhaps during drop off and/or pick up times?

* Parents liked the idea of there being a 'pen portal' of Trust individuals to read about in the school reception area.

Community

A discussion was held regarding how the school could become more immersed with its community with a particular focus on school lettings.

It was agreed that given the size of the school (rooms, outside space etc.) there were huge possibilities for community groups to make use of facilities.

Members shared knowledge of community lettings/activities that they are aware of that take place in other schools in the area including keep fit, sports groups, keep fit, brownies, cubs, beavers and guides etc.

One member indicated that prior to lockdown 2020 she had been attending a fitness class at Fibbersley on a Monday evening which had been steadily receiving an increasing number of participants. Lockdown had prevented the class from continuing due to school facilities not being open but she had been concerned to recently hear that the class was unlikely to continue post lockdown due to the cost of the hire of the school hall being too expensive.

At this point **Mrs K Sugars** joined the meeting and was asked to provide information about lettings at the school. She explained that 'lettings' exist to serve a dual purpose:

1. To Support school funds
2. To fulfil the needs of the community

Lettings are made under agreement with a service user and take account of all necessary security/site and H and S arrangements. She explained that lettings need to be cost effective for the school and that any revenue that is made from lettings needs to appropriately cover wages, cleaning and all other associated costs for them to be viable. K Sugars said that she was very keen for Fibbersley to increase school lettings as a way of subsequently increasing/enhancing school community links but that such arrangements would need to be entirely cost effective 'all round'. It was hoped that Brownies/Cubs/Scout groups might make use of facilities and that the school hall/food technology room/library and outdoor areas may be a potential for community use in the future. It was hoped that going forward the school website would eventually have a page/link dedicated for bookings and letting enquiries.

Communication

A discussion took place regarding recent forms of communication that had been adopted at Fibbersley.

Members expressed an enthusiasm for 'Class Charts' and its use as a new channel of communication between the school/staff and parents. A member outlined that she had witnessed a recent increase in enthusiasm on her child's part to collect 'points'. One member asked about the purpose of the 'points system' within Class Charts. Mrs Sugars explained that the points are linked to school values and were incorporated into the Class Charts system to provide recognition for the many students that relentlessly behave and comply with school rules and values. Children will receive recognition for almost anything and everything that they do well at school.

Mrs Sugars pointed out that Class Charts was still in its early stages of use and would need to be continued to be managed well. K Sugars also pointed out that she monitors the overall use of Class Charts as well as monitoring that is undertaken by the class teacher.

Given that parents can now directly message staff at any time of day on Class Charts, one member asked if there would be any element of control or restriction placed on this. K Sugars confirmed that she would not expect any member of her staff to be in the habit of directly responding to parent messages once they have left the school building.

In Summary it was confirmed that

- Marvellous Me will no longer be made use of by the school
- School newsletters will be sent electronically via Class Charts

- Parents are encouraged to download Class Charts in APP form

AOB:

Due to her attendance at the meeting Mrs K Sugars was able to provide instant feedback to the following points/issues raised:

1. A request was made for Mrs Sugars to alternate her visible presence at both school gates during school entry/drop off time.
Mrs Sugars said that she would continue to do this
2. A member enquired whether the timings of the school day would revert back to normal for September 21?
It was envisaged that this would be an 8.45am start in the morning and a 3.15pm finish at the end of the school day for all children.
3. Given that no parents would be allowed to attend sports day a member enquired if it was possible for the event to be filmed and a video shared with parents
Mrs Sugars explained that this was not possible but that plenty of photographs would be hopefully be shared by teachers from the day. A letter was due to come out to parents explaining arrangements for Sports Day and future transition days.
4. A member enquired whether there could be a greater variety of after school clubs available to children?
K Sugars explained that current clubs take place based on the interests of the co-ordinating teacher. Any after club that is provided at Fibbersley totally depends on the good will and interest of teaching staff. It was suggested that ideas for future after school clubs could be presented to Mrs Jones for consideration.
5. A member enquired if clubs will go back to being 'mixed' in September 21?
K Sugars indicated that whilst she is not anticipating the need for any 'bubbles' in September 21 the school would still need to follow any government guidelines regarding social distancing in schools nearer the time.
6. A member enquired about arrangements for the Year 6 leavers event
Members were informed by Mrs Sugars that children could attend the party/disco dressed as they wished. Children will have a morning leavers assembly and then finish school at normal time to return back to school from 6pm – 8pm. Mrs Jones will be taking photographs of the event.

Members to the meeting wished to highlight the following staff for praise and gratitude:

Mr Sherma – Members agreed that Mr Sherma had been an inspiration to children during this disrupted Academic Year

Mrs Sugars – For the effective start she has made to her Head Teacher role at Fibbersley

The Year 6 team – Despite disruption during academic year 2021-21, for the work they have undertaken in preparing children for the transition to secondary school.

Mrs Cockayne – For the effective handling of increase in calls/requests/enquiries made by parents to reception during the lock down period.

Members were thanked for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and were wished a very happy safe and happy Summer Holiday.

Date of next meeting TBC in the new Academic Year 2021/22