

Minutes of the Chesterton Community College PTA Meeting

17th November 2015

In attendance:

Caroline Brettell (CB), Rimma Belotserkovskaya (RB), Mateja Jamnik Bierman (MJB), Eftichea Koumartzak (EK), Katherine Hutchinson (KH), Lucy Scott (LS), Judith Harrison (JH), Beth Aplin (BA), Luke Tunmer, Jo Tunmer (JT), Ruth Binks (RB), Natasha Werdmuller (NW), Liz Evetts (LE), Shayne Mitchel (SM), Carl Humphries (CH).

1 Welcome and Introduction of new committee and Apologies

- Co-Chairs: Rimma Belotserkovskaya and Caroline Brettell
- Secretary: Mateja Jamnik Bierman
- Treasurer: Eftichea Koumartzaki

Caroline thanked everyone for coming and introduced the new committee. Apologies received from Liz von Hippel, Susie Johnson, Jayne Clough, Rebecca Gillett (RG), Sarah Higgins (SH).

2 Past events reports

- Quiz night (Natasha Werdmuller)

NW reported that the quiz was a great success. The new quiz masters Josh Bailey and Nick Hewitt were brilliant. The profit made on the night was £770. NW noted that for the future, more alcohol should be bought, so we don't run out. There were fewer students than usual (32 students, 70 adults). To attract more students, the events need to be highlighted on daily notices to students.

[Action: organisers of future events to supply sufficient drinks, LS to advertise PTA events to students on daily notices.]

- Wine and cheese at Meet the tutor for year 7 parents (Caroline Brettell)

CB questioned how necessary it is for the PTA to be at this event, however, LS reported that this was well received by parents. CB noted that the second hand uniform stall was particularly welcomed. The event is not a big expense for the PTA (4 bottles of wine).

- Second hand uniform sale (Rebecca Gillet/Sarah Higgins)

The report from RG and SH indicates that there is not much interest for polo shirts. Everything else sells well. A dedicated email has been set up for this: 2ndhanduniform@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk, although the working of this may need to be double checked as MJB found a number of emails in the PTA mailbox while RG reports none have been received.

[Action: MJB to liaise with IT department and RG/SH to make sure that email address works.]

3 Other updates

- Climbing wall update (Carl Humphries, Mateja Jamnik Bierman)

CH reported the good news that the building contractor that will be doing the school expansion build donated £10,000 to the climbing wall fundraiser! This is added to the ~£2000 raised previously by parents and the PTA. Other events that raised money and still need to be deposited

are the non-uniform day (£800? tbc), the year 7 fun run (£1000? tbc), the PTA quiz night (£770), cheques received from parents. This could bring the total raised so far to well over £15,000. The committee needs to consolidate all sources of money to be able to determine the exact balance to date. Future initiatives planned for fundraising towards the climbing wall are: Wine Tasting evening, Christmas puddings, Burns Night, Name that Tune quiz, year 8 sponsored event, collection buckets at parents evenings.

MJB reported that web pages have been updated, visual totaliser has been installed, and another publicity push for parental donations is planned via parentmail; posters to be displayed to advertise the fundraiser; leaflets to be left next to reception and in the Sports Centre.

It was suggested for the school to hold a climbing wall fundraising festival linked to Easter (similar to the Children in Need event) at around Easter time — LS agreed. Other suggestions to promote this fundraiser were: a Press Release by the school, the sports centre could advertise to local clubs, the PTA could write to the University Climbing Club, companies could be approached to donate money in exchange to offering them the facility for team building sessions. However, it was noted that these external fundraising efforts might be too time consuming and maybe we should focus on internal events instead.

[Action: CH and LS to confirm the amount and deposit non-uniform day and year 7 fun run moneys. PTA committee to consolidate all sources of money to obtain a total. MJB, JT, BA, RB to launch the new marketing push. LS to initiate the Easter school fundraiser.]

- Dates for future meetings for the year confirmed and booked for 7:30pm in the Library:
 - Thursday 28th January 2016
 - Tuesday 8th March 2016
 - Thursday 5th May 2016
 - Tuesday 5th July 2016

4 Forthcoming events reports

- Wine tasting evening on 4 December 2015 (Caroline Brettell)

CB reported that Wine Tasting evening is replacing the Christmas Fair this year. (Volunteers could be sought out at the end of this academic year that might want to organise the Christmas Fair for next academic year.) More parents and friends need to be recruited to buy tickets for the Wine Tasting: we need between 25-30 people for the event to be viable.

[Action: CB to send reminders to parentmail to buy tickets.]

- Burns Night on 29 January 2016 (Caroline Brettell, working group)

A working group comprising of: Caroline, Rimma, Eftichea, Judith, Natasha, Shayne and Ruth has been set up to meet imminently to organise Burns Night. CB reported that the band and the rooms have been booked.

[Action: CB, RB, EK, JH, NW, SM and RB to set a working group meeting to organise Burns Night.]

- Name that tune with mystery chocolate round on 11 March 2016 (Jo Tunmer)

BA and JT reported that there is a working group for this event — it promises to be great fun. It will be a quiz with intros of music pieces as question to guess the tune. It was suggested to use

donations from OpenAir as prizes, and to have a chocolate round. Ticket price was suggested to be not higher than £5, as people will then be more keen to spend money on drinks etc.

[Action: JT and BA to organise.]

5 Other fundraising initiatives

- Parents' evening refreshments (Caroline Brettell)

CB reported that we desperately need a new volunteer to help coordinate this as LE steps down from this duty that she so brilliantly organised for a long time. We thank LE for her stellar organisation. LS remarked that teachers really appreciate having a drink during long parents' evenings.

[Action: MJB to send a request to Parentmail.]

- Christmas puddings (Judith Harrison, Mateja Jamnik Bierman)

JH reported that these luxury puddings are a good money raiser and they have been put on ParentPay, so we need to encourage people to buy them.

[Action: MJB to send a reminder to Parentmail. MJB to ask LS/Hayley Coppin to forward to teachers. MJB to get Sue Spencer's email address to add to the PTA list and forward the form for puddings to her.]

- Foldable bags (Mateja Jamnik Bierman, Eftichea Koumartzaki)

MJB demonstrated a nylon foldable bag that could be of any colour with any logo printed on it. We could sell these bags as a timely fundraiser for the school (to avoid being charged in shops for plastic bags): production cost is £1.60, but we could sell for £3.50 each. The downside is that the minimum order is 500 bags. It was felt that there are too few events at school where we could sell them. Also, the initial outlay is high and the returns may take a while to materialise. It was decided that this initiative will not be followed through.

6 Faculty funding requests

- We received one funding request from Anita Dawson for minimac compatible midi music keyboards which would enhance all students music learning and composing. The request was approved, and the funds need to be released.

[Action: MJB to inform Anita Dawson. EK to release funds once the invoice is received.]

- Another request was received from Neil Kelly, but it needs to go through the usual funding request process via the school and LS.

[Action: LS to inform Neil Kelly to submit the new form to LS.]

7 Presentation by Dr Kath Hutchinson

KH presented the Professional Development Programme (PDP) for staff at Chesterton Community College and how it benefits staff as well as students. She designed a new logo to symbolise the values shared by staff at school. There are many training programs taking place every day for staff: staff briefing, department meetings, 15 minute forum, twilight course, lunchtime training. Staff really appreciate these opportunities, and Chesterton has an exceptionally rich PDP in comparison to

other schools. It helps staff plan and build their career paths, it helps retain staff, and it helps attract staff. It is a testament to its success that so many staff not only take part in these programmes, but also offer to teach on them.

KH informed us that this kind of training is available to support staff too.

KH also requested if there are any Excel specialists amongst parents who could offer 15 minutes of training for staff.

[Action: MJB liaise with KH to send a request to Parentmail.]

8 AOB

The discussion about the change of name from PTA has been deferred till next time. Everyone should come with ideas to next meeting.

9 Date of next meeting

Thursday 28 January 2016