

Chesterton Community College Parent Teacher Association
Annual General Meeting
held on 20 September 2011 in the Resources Centre

In attendance:

Jolanda Aldis, Yvonne Barr, Clare Bartlet, Sarah Bolt, Julie Broomfield, Lloyd Brown (Deputy Head), Sylvie Chastagnol, Clare Claughton, Pat Dalby, Renata Dallaway (Secretary), Steve Erickson (Assistant Head), Sophie Evans, Tina Goode, Eliane Hamaia, Eileen Hori, Kath Hutchinson, Rebecca Howland, Caroline Ingarfield, Ann Kennedy Smith, Tertio Kreutzmann, Caroline Mattin, Angie McIntyre, Naomi Needs, Margaret O'Neill, Jim O'Sullivan, Siew Yee Pang, Stella Perkins (Vice Chair), Mark Patterson (Principal), Melissa Plowden Roberts (Treasurer), Sarah Reakes, J Stickley, Emily Taylor, Nicola Von Schrieber, Stephen Von Schrieber, Tamsin Wimhurst (Chair)

1. Welcome and introductions

Tamsin Wimhurst, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially newcomers to the PTA, the Senior Management Team and other staff representatives. Around 40 parents and teachers were in attendance. Apologies were noted from Jim Warwick, Sheila Ceccarelli, Charlie Ash, Jo Minnaar, Becky Wilburn, Shally Shefer and John Phillips.

TW summarised the PTA's activity in 2010/11:

- A huge effort by students, staff, parents and the PTA had raised enough money to buy a new minibus for the school. Fundraising activities included a quiz night, a gig in a local pub, a wine tasting, sponsored growing of beards, a chocolate tombola and non-uniform days. Marshalls were very generously supplying the minibus at cost price and it would be delivered in October 2011.
- An annual fund from which teachers could request money for one off events or resources was being continued. The last distribution had been around £3,000. Funds had been given to teachers to purchase, for example, gardening equipment, transport for trips, headphones for language learning, t-shirts for teambuilding of incoming year 6 students, props for a drama production, toys, first aid equipment and books for the Child Care and Development course, a vinyl cutter for DT, funds for a cafe to support non-English speaking parents and camping equipment to allow all students to participate in residential trips.
- Melissa had continued providing refreshments for staff and parents at all the Parents' evenings on behalf of the PTA.
- The PTA had, according to law, become a charity and adopted the standard constitutions of PTAs.

2. Finance report

The Finance Report for the period 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011 was circulated and explained by Melissa Plowden-Roberts. She noted that the Report was not yet audited but expected very little change.

Melissa encouraged parents and carers to join the Prize Draw which provided the PTA with around £2,000 in regular income for a payment of £5 a month.

Melissa noted that now the school had become an academy it could claim gift aid on donations. In the past donations had been channelled through the PTA in order to claim gift aid.

It was noted that the PTA received an extraordinary gift of £180,000 which had been given to the school and used to clear the deficit. The balance of £75,333.02 currently in the PTA account was due to an extraordinary amount of gift aid resulting from this donation (use of this would be decided by the donor and school), payment for the minibus which was yet to be made and money for faculty requests, including the cost of camping equipment which had been previously agreed but not yet paid out.

3. Open items from last meeting

Funds for events and resources

Tamsin noted that there were excess funds after the minibus had been paid for, in addition to those offered to staff, and proposed that students should decide where this money could best be spent. A pot of around £3,000 would be offered and the final decision would be made by Student Voice in liaison with PTA.

Sports Centre

Tamsin noted that the Sports Centre was in good financial shape but the corporate structure was subject to change now the school had become an academy. This would not result in any changes to the staffing or the running of the Centre. Further information would follow as these changes had not yet been clarified by the DfE.

Roles of Chair and Deputy Chair

Tamsin proposed that the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair should be limited to 2 years (or 1 if necessary) and that the role of Chair should not be held by a parent with a youngest child in year 11, to ensure continuity. This policy was adopted.

4. Future Projects and Events

It was agreed that the staff fund should be offered again, with a pot of £3,000 available in amounts of up to £300. Staff would be asked to submit requests for consideration at the next PTA meeting, and one request from each department was encouraged. *Action: SP, RD.*

The Quiz Night, another gig and wine tasting were proposed as events for the year, with the wine tasting to take place before Christmas. Tamsin recommended more social rather than major fundraising activity after the huge effort of the previous year. This was agreed. *Action: to be considered at next meeting.*

5. Presentation by the Principal and Senior Management Team

Mark Patterson thanked the PTA for all their valuable work on behalf of the school and encouraged others to get involved.

Mark circulated and explained the headline data on 2011 exam results and took questions. He noted that the results were very close to the predicted grades and were improving year on year.

Mark circulated the latest draft version of the School Improvement Plan prior to its discussion by the Governors and he and the Senior Management Team explained the school's current priorities.

Mark referred to the list of text books recently circulated to parents, which they could purchase for their child, new or second hand, and if they wish, donate to allow copies to be purchased for families who were unable to afford them. The school aimed to

have a bank of text books which students could borrow, and parents would be asked to donate them to the school when their children left in Year 11.

6. Election of Committee for 2011/12

Stella Perkins was nominated and seconded as Chair and duly elected.

Sarah Reakes was nominated and seconded as Vice-Chair and duly elected.

Melissa Plowden Roberts and Renata Dallaway indicated that they were happy to carry on as Treasurer and Secretary for another year.

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8 November 2011, 7.30pm.

Action: RD to ensure room booked and send out reminder to parents and staff via Parentmail and individual email to previous attendees. KH to ensure staff know.