

SJFA MEETING 14 JANUARY 2009

Minutes of Meeting

Present:-

Alison Waterfield, Jackie Clarke, W. Ashton Evans, Melanie Callaghan, P. Jackson, P. Linden, Amanda Kay, R. Minshull, Ged Rafferty, M. Rogerson,

Apologies:-

S Lowson, A McGonagle

Review of Previous Minutes

The Christmas Crafts and Carols was very successful; approx £2,000 was raised, slightly less than the previous year which was considered good in the current economic climate. Many compliments were received about the good music.

A cheque in the sum of £5,820 from the Amenities Fund has been given towards the cost of the new minibus. The first cohort of staff members have completed the necessary driving course (around 9 members of staff) and are now registered to drive the new minibus. SJFA will contribute towards the course – around £150 - as agreed.

Balance of Amenities Fund and SJFA Account

As D Hamilton not present it was decided to re-visit this after the Daffodil Ball; funds will need to be kept available for payment for this event. It is thought that the balance of the Amenities Fund is around £34,545 at present.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDS

Music Department

Rachel Brooks has asked for funds to meet *KS3 Musical Futures* to buy some new instruments. The full sum of £1,130 was agreed to be paid by SJFA.

An additional £2,500 was requested for 40 much-needed black durable music stands, with 2 portable stands. Although SJFA agreed that the Music Department do an enormous amount for the School and SJFA, it was agreed that P Jackson will discuss this with R Brooks and if the funding is agreed the usual 50/50 split between school and SJFA would apply. In addition a brief exploration of alternative sources of funding will be undertaken.

Presentation Evening

It was brought to light that the recent annual Presentation Evening resulted in a £1,000 deficit. P. Jackson asked that an extra £500 be donated now and in future £1500 on an annual basis to cover the increased costs. SJFA agreed wholeheartedly to this. In future any Nominees will also be informed by letter.

Parentpay

P Jackson has been looking into this online payment scheme, along with a group of other local schools. It is a web service which allows parents to make secure online payments to schools using debit cards. Credit cards are not being considered as these incur much higher charges.

Start up costs are £2,000-3,000 and transactions will cost 25-30p (like a service charge) either to be borne by the School or the parents. SJFA were asked to cover 50% of start up costs.

Initially it will be used only for catering accounts, with the possibility of expanding to include payments for school trips. Payment by cash/cheque will still be acceptable but it is thought that in this day of internet banking such a facility will be very helpful to parents, as well as helping to keep administration costs down.

Committee members were very enthusiastic about this matter and it was agreed that this information be passed to parents on the email list for feedback in time for the next Governors meeting on 3 February. If this matter is approved then Denny will go ahead.

Stacking Games Club

Mary Gaynor, Learning Support, has asked to set up a Club catering for some of the more vulnerable children at lunchtimes – there will be stacking games, with some competition. The full sum of £180 was agreed (to be drawn out of the Amenities Fund for now).

Artificial Pitch

The School Council have asked for an Artificial pitch; something that is considered highly desirable, especially after all the recent water logging. As costs for this will be high, matters such as sponsorship, partnerships and hiring out opportunities will be researched and considered. It was suggested that "*Learning Through Landscapes*" might be helpful in this matter. Now that the new Minibus has been achieved, this might be a good money-raising project.

Daffodil Ball - Saturday 21 March 2009

School Congress has been asked to create a "Facebook" for ex-students. The traditional database is in existence, going back about five years. 161 tickets for the Daffodil Ball have been reserved, as well as 10 staff tickets, and as numbers are nearly at capacity (maximum of 200) SJFA will not need to tap into the database.

There will be a sub-committee meeting to discuss prizes and timetable for event which will be combined with a Committee visit to the Cedar Court on 29 March at 7.30 pm. Danny Savage will be notified of the date as he wants to see the location before the event. Details of numbers and menu etc will be progressed.

Photographer, Nicola Richardson, has confirmed that she is available for the Ball. She will accompany the Committee to the Cedar Court on 29 March.

Golden Jubilee Event – Friday 15 May 2009 at Ripley Castle

A Gala Concert will be held during the evening on the Showground at Ripley Castle, with guests invited to bring picnics. SJFA have been asked to help with a champagne reception on arrival and interval drinks in a marquee for VIP guests. (Ripley Castle is providing the licence). The idea of outside caterers was raised and this will be considered; SJFA is offering their services for this Gala Concert.

A letter and a big publicity drive will follow. Further meetings in school to take place regarding this event. A. Waterfield asked that any relevant parts of Minutes be sent to her via email.

The final event in this Golden Jubilee is to be a Mass in School, possibly 22 June 2009 (as this is the feast of St John Fisher) although no fixed date yet as this has to tie in with the Bishop's availability.

Update on Girls Summer Uniform

There is the possibility of an open-necked blouse for the girls. M Rogerson meeting supplier in 2 weeks. School Council is also involved in this matter.

SJFA Website Page

New software for Reporting has been taking up time. This will be updated as soon as possible.

NCPTA 50p Trail

This will take place once the weather improves. There is a forthcoming fundraising seminar to be held at St Aidans which may bring more fundraising ideas.

AOB

Exciting times! 1st XV in the last 16 for the Daily Mail Cup – rugby English Nationals

Also the Year 7 football team have reached the last 16 in the Nationals. Success for the top end of the School, as well as the lower!

Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.