

SJFA AGM 8 OCTOBER 2008

Minutes of Meeting

Present:-

Alison Waterfield, Jackie Clarke, Wendy Ashton-Evans, Melanie Callaghan, Davida Hamilton, Dolores Horn, Patti Linden, Amanda Kay, Ged Rafferty, Mary Rogerson, Carol Stevens, Mike Carpenter, Dorothy Stitt, Annette McGonagle, Fiona Hakin, Sue Lawson

Apologies:

L Maturi, M Chandler, N Richardson, V Payne, S Williams

Minutes of 2007 Meeting

Approved as read.

Co-Chairs Report

It was recognised that the Association is an important contributor to the life of the School aiming to enhance the children's education, support extra-curricular activities and create a community atmosphere for all the school families through social events. An "outstanding grade" was given to fundraising efforts from the three main events of the year – Daffodil Ball (raised £2,340), Crafts and Carols (£2,000) and Family Picnic (£300). In addition there was the Fiesta organised by the Fishers Community Art Dept which was another unexpected, successful fundraising event. All events were very much enjoyed by all.

The Association is also tasked with decision making on how the Amenities Fund is best used. At present this stands at £31,226 (after the donation towards the new school minibus) and after donations to many different areas and departments within school including the new school minibus (delivery expected end October), new sound and lighting system for the main school hall, sports equipment and kit, sewing machines for the Textile Department, help with Duke of Edinburgh award schemes, computer software and new crockery for the school dining room.

Thanks were given to all who have lent their support to the various events during a very impressive year. There is also lots of planning already in place for the forthcoming School's special anniversary year.

Special thanks were extended to Nicola Richardson and Luisa Maturi for their support over the last few years.

Financial Report

The Daffodil Ball was the biggest fundraiser, followed by the Crafts and Carols where funds were raised mainly through entry price and the main raffle. D. Hamilton tracking individual costs for returns with each event. This last year brought an extra £600-700 in interest on the minibus account which will not be there next year. Also the payment for the Cashless Catering and Sound and Lighting System took large chunks out of the Fund.

Head Teacher's Report

M Rogerson confirmed that it has been another great year with outstanding outcomes, as well as there being good pastoral care, for the School. Both the School and Staff are aware and grateful for the Association's support. As far as the fabric of the building is concerned there is now a new Media Suite with Administration Offices above which are fantastic, particularly for the staff working there. The new sub-station will mean a 109% increase in electricity costs but is much needed.

In addition to all this, extra curricular activities have increased five-fold in the last few years giving a great breadth of curriculum to the children. Again, an "Outstanding" verdict given!

Election of Management Committee

For the second year it was agreed and passed that Alison Waterfield/Jackie Clarke be co-chairs; Davida Hamilton as Treasurer and Amanda Kay as Secretary.

New Minibus and Logo Design.

G Rafferty confirmed that timescales looked good for the new minibus to be available, with insurance and tax, from the 1st November 2008. Seat covers are ordered and will be fitted by School.

The Graphics Department kindly came up with three very good visual logos and these were voted for by the Committee with the name and fish logo named as first choice. Thanks given to the Graphics Dept for their time and input.

Update on Girls Summer Uniform

M Rogerson meeting with new supplier to make enquiries. Meeting also with representatives of the School Council – looking at the possibilities of a polo shirt or fitted blouse for the girls summer uniform. Also, a short-sleeved, open-necked shirt for the boys. The blazer does become an option in the hot weather.

D. Hamilton asked whether it might be possible for the School to consider Fair Trade options and M Rogerson agreed this would be a good idea.

There was some discussion about a more prescriptive dress code for the 6th Form – the idea of a suit (skirt, dress or trouser) – more “business dress”. J Clarke remarked that a recent French visitor had found the uniform very smart (there is no school uniform in France) and all present at the meeting thought that the kilt looks smart.

M Rogerson suggested that this matter perhaps be raised in School Congress for further thought and discussion.

Informing Pupils and Parents of nominations for Prizes.

The Committee asked that those pupils nominated for prizes might get a letter informing them of this and giving recognition for their hard work and effort (but not invited to actual prize giving ceremony). It was thought that the School is very good at passing on cards and recognition generally through the year, but that this was something that would be welcomed too. There are plans to give out SJF key-rings and post such information on the website.

AOB

D Hamilton asked whether any plans could be put into place for a 5.00 – 5.30 p.m. bus/transport for pupils who have difficulty getting home, particularly for those with working parents.

M Rogerson will speak to Rossett who have a similar type of arrangement to find out if there is anything that can be done (but without needing CRB checks galore!)

Perhaps lists of names and details could be passed around at extra curricular activities so that parents could liaise with sharing cars or taxi arrangements. The Harrogate Car Share scheme was also mentioned.

There have been no requests for funds from any of the Departments, as yet.

SJFA agreed to donate £1,000 again this year towards the recent prizes given.

Committee agreed that the recent Open Day was very impressive.

There will be a music channel on the screens in the Dining Room during lunchtimes.

Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 12 November 2008 at 7.30 p.m.