

Subject: Parent Council Minutes Term 3 2014/15

Date of Meeting: Friday 30th January 2015 at 2pm

Present: Valerie Quest (Headteacher)
Rachel Hathaway (Topaz)
Emma James (Jet)
Allison Hall (Emerald)
Kay Dalton (Amethyst)
Juliet Jones (Diamond)
Sarah Quick (Pearl)
Jacqui Howes (Diamond/Sapphire)
Tracey Ryder (Pearl)

Apologies: Gayle Holcombe (Jet/Crystal)
David Wildman (South Gloucestershire Council catering manager)

Next meeting: Friday 30th March at 2pm

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
3. Minutes of last meeting	No comments on previous minutes	
4. Matters arising	<p><u>Car Parking</u>; This is an ongoing issue. As discussed at the previous meeting, people are still parking in the middle of the road to let their children out because some parents are blocking the drop-off zone. There is also a continued problem of cars blocking driveways and people driving faster than is appropriate. Various solutions were discussed including attaching signs to the railings to make the zone more visible, painting white lines on corners and across driveways and continued presence of teachers/children standing near the zone at pickup and drop-off times to discourage drivers from parking there. Could repeat offenders be reminded not to park in the zone using leaflets on their windscreens? It was also suggested the number of cars having to come to the school could be reduced by encouraging the older children to be dropped off on the High Street and walk down. Ms. Quest will contact Pat Trull regarding the white lines to see if that option can be explored.</p> <p><u>Updated Parent Council Newsletter</u>: Gayle Holcombe sent her apologies for this meeting. We hope to have the updated newsletter in time for the meeting in March</p> <p><u>Catering</u>: David Wildman, catering manager, sent his apologies once again. He was due to discuss the issue of portion sizes and our concerns about some items running out before the older children get their lunches. We have additional concerns that we would also like him to discuss, such as the perceived reduction in quality of school lunches since September and items being advertised on the menu but never in the canteen, such as jacket potatoes. Ms. Quest will ask him to reschedule his visit again.</p>	<p>VQ</p> <p>GH</p> <p>VQ</p>

	<p><u>Playground Games:</u> Following the issues raised at the last meeting, a letter was sent out to parents to clarify the school's position on playground games. No further complaints have been received but the school will continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p><u>After-school clubs:</u> Since the last meeting, where we discussed a complaint regarding teacher-run clubs not being consistently provided and/or parents not being made aware of a club cancellation, the school has put new procedures in place to ensure that no club is cancelled without parents' knowledge. Ms. Quest reconfirmed that it is unavoidable that some clubs are cancelled at short notice due to teachers' heavy work commitments, but that every effort would be made to keep these times to a minimum.</p> <p><u>Gate congestion at drop-off times:</u> We discussed the continuing issue of congestion at the school gate at drop-off times. It was suggested that the school caretaker open the black gates to the small playground before those of the main playground so that parents can move away from the pathway and into the 'holding area' near the red gates. Ms Quest will ask the caretaker to make that the routine and the congestion will continue to be monitored.</p> <p><u>Governor rep on Trustees:</u> Ms. Quest gave a brief reminder that there are a few Trustees due to step down in the spring from the Education Foundation that manages and distributes funds to the school and that we need to recruit replacements. The next meeting of the Foundation is due to take place in May/June and the meeting invite needs to be sent to new volunteers who may like to become Trustees.</p>	<p>VQ</p> <p>VQ</p>
5. Strategic Planning	Ms. Quest advised that the current Five Year Plan for Alexander Hosea is drawing to a close and that the whole school community needs to be engaged to do the next Five Year Plan. Various suggestions were put forward on how to get parents and carers to give their input, including Questionnaires, Coffee Mornings and Idea Boxes (which would need the scope of appropriate ideas outlined in a flyer in book bags). Suggestions were noted and Ms. Quest will look into implementing them.	VQ
6. RSE Evening	The RSE Evening is taking place on 12/2/15 and the school has sent out letters with response forms to parents. The school does not have the funds to pay for an alcohol licence at parent events like these, so we discussed the possibility of using the Sale or Return facility offered by the Spar. Parents will be asked to make a donation rather than pay for alcohol, which would mean a licence wouldn't be required. It was pointed out that donations usually exceed expectations and so the school may prefer to do this to raise funds anyway.	
7. Communication/Texts	Ms. Quest asked for feedback from the Parent Council regarding the number of texts received by parents. The majority of responses were positive, with most feeling that it was a good way of communicating information. Ms. Quest confirmed that the Office has set up groups so that they can target appropriate texts by class. This reduces the likelihood of parents receiving texts that don't relate to their children. It was suggested that the number of attachments in emails could be reduced by pasting the information into the body of	

	the text. If school branding was the reason behind the attachments, it is possible to set up a logo in Outlook that can be applied to an email. Ms. Quest advised that the Governors are keen on branding and will look into this further.	VQ
8. Parent agenda Items	<p><u>Rules and Behaviour Strategy:</u> The parent representatives continue to be concerned that some children are discouraged by a perceived lack of progress or non-recognition of hard work. The current strategy is not working for middle-of-the-road, consistently good children who are not incentivised by remaining static on the 'in-flight' section of the wall chart. Ms. Quest will discuss with the teachers and the matter will be revisited at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Concert at Colston Hall:</u> There has not been a huge uptake by parents for this concert. It was felt that this could be due to the concert falling on a Sunday and requiring parents to drop off and pick up their children at the event. Another possible reason behind the disappointing numbers could be the song theme (Frozen) which does not necessarily appeal to the broadest range of children. AHS have a very talented group of young singers and they will continue to be encouraged to take up opportunities such as performing at the Colston Hall.</p>	VQ
9. Curriculum Changes	Ms. Quest reported that the curriculum for Years One, Three, Four and Five changed from September 2014 to the new standards required by the Government. The difference in curriculum expectations in the new guidelines compared with the old curriculum is huge and this is putting immense pressure on the children and teachers at AHS. The school is working on a communication to parents regarding the new curriculum and the subject will continue to be a discussion point at future meetings.	
10. Annual reports to Parents	Parent Council members were asked to provide feedback regarding the annual school report to parents. In addition to statutory information in your child's school report, what other information would parents like to receive? Where possible get feedback about what is good about the report and if there is anything missing.	ALL
11. AOB	No other business was discussed.	
12. Future meeting dates and times for 2014/15	<p>Term 4 – Friday 30th March, 2pm</p> <p>Term 5 – Friday 8th May, 2pm</p> <p>Term 6 – Friday 26th June, 2pm</p>	

Duration of Meeting: 1.5 Hours