

<p style="text-align: center;">Parent Voice Minutes Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019</p>
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Present:

Amanda Moffatt, Caroline Blondell, Christina Mathioudakis, Darren Lord, Donna Baker, Geraldine Morley, Janet Allen, Jill Bowyer, Katy Vernon, Louisa Hooper, Marcella Lord, Michelle Garvey, Mikala Rutherford, Peter Bridgland, Sudeshna Khan and Theresa Harvey.

Present from the School:

Mr Leonard

Apologies

Cynthia Wood, Filiz Zaman, Hayley Gelkoff, Johannah McCarthy, Julie Pearce, Karl Haywood and Ros Howe.

Thank you to those of you that could make the meeting, particularly in light of the snow and hazardous conditions, it was a very useful meeting for me and your time as always was much appreciated.

Please see below some brief notes from the meeting;

1. Feedback on Year Group meetings.

Mr Leonard explained that he had arranged meetings with parents from Year 11 and Year 9 last half term following on from the previous Parent Voice meeting where he explained he wanted to meet more parents, particularly those who do not attend these meetings.

Disappointingly, of the 19 parents contacted only one Year 11 parent was able to attend. This was still a very useful meeting however and a number of steps were taken as a result of the feedback given.

The Year 9 meeting was better attended and again Mr Leonard received some very useful feedback, particularly relating to the Options processes and the Year 9 qualifications that students were taking in one year.

Mr Leonard explained that he would persevere with the Year Group meetings every other half term and would choose two different years for the next meeting. Pupils are chosen at random but ensuring there is a good split of genders etc. Parents are informed by post and then called to see if they are able to attend.

2. Parent Voice fundraising

To be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Future planned trips for Year 10 and 11.

Mr Leonard gave details of the trips that were planned or had taken place this year. He explained the reasons for a reduction in school trips over the years is that staff run the trips voluntarily and most are done in their own time. They take a huge amount of time and effort to organise and the staff members have to give up their own holidays in order to run them, and they therefore only take place as a result of the staffs own good will.

Trips during term time are only able to be run with voluntary contributions from parents and due to falling contributions many have had to be cancelled and we therefore run less. The school cannot subsidise students attending trips at the detriment of funding books, staff and facilities. Mr Leonard spoke at the start of the year to staff and asked them to consider running more trips and as a result more have been organised.

We also intend to run the school ski trip again which would have taken place this year but the organising member of staff went on maternity leave, but we hope to have this back in place for the next academic year and if not the year after. We also have to consider the impact of trips on students learning if they are during term time as we want our teachers in class teaching students as much as possible.

4. Policy on Social Media and Bullying

Firstly please find enclosed the school's Anti Bullying Policy which covers social media and bullying.

Mr Leonard explained that the school had a zero tolerance on bullying and this included that which happens via Social Media outside of school hours, if it impacts upon the students in school. There are many schools who refuse to deal with issues that happen outside of school but we feel it is important for the wellbeing of the students and the harmony of the school for us to get involved, usually with restorative justice meetings. Mr Leonard would however add that parents should consider informing the police themselves should they have concerns over any social media or face to face bullying that occurs outside of school hours.

5. Library Opening Times

Monday – Wednesday – 08:30am -4:30pm

Thursday – Friday – 08:30am – 4pm.

6. Reading Assignments

It was raised that in Year 7 pupils are given reading assignments and books to read, however this stops in Year 8. Mr Leonard said he would follow this up

ACTION: Mr Leonard to report back at the next meeting the Literacy Policy for the school and how we are addressing reading.

7. Extra-Curricular Sport

The question was raised regarding extra-curricular activities for those who are not successful in getting into the A Teams.

Mr Leonard explained that there are only 3 male and 2 full time female PE staff and that they run clubs before school, lunch and afterschool almost daily. There are 5 teams for each sport on average and the staff do not have the capacity to be able to put on sport for all clubs, as well as leading teams and taking fixtures. There is a swimming club before school, cross country and basketball clubs and table tennis after school. All of which any pupil can attend. Mr Leonard also said that he would like to start junior football competitions at lunchtime for all KS3 pupils when the Sports Hall is finished being built.

8. Expansion

Mr Leonard explained that the contract with Lakehouse, the original building contractor has ended by mutual agreement with Essex County Council and that Lakehouse are currently vacating the school site. Although this has slightly delayed completion of the building works,

the new building firm are now in place to complete the Science, Music and Dining blocks and have started work this week. The new buildings, the Sports Hall and English block, will be further delayed and more information will be passed on to parents shortly regarding timelines for these blocks.

Mr Leonard would like to thank parents and students for their patience, we will complete the work but it will take slightly longer. Unfortunately all building work is out of the school's control as it is being financed and managed by Essex County Council.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 16th May 2019.