

Present: Karen Law (Headteacher), Hannah Worthington (Chair), Greg Allan (Chair), Jonathan Parr (Treasurer), Jasmine Hayward (Secretary), Ellara Wakely (Y4 rep), Kiran Patwal (3A rep), Lena Corner (Y2 rep), Darcy Campbell (IM rep), Lucy Maggs (1N rep), Anna Shepherd (Rec W rep), Sophie Broadbridge, Jessica Chadwick, Louise Nickerson, Francesca Boyd, Esme Daly, Jamie Smith.

Treasurers Report and Accounts:

Treasurer Jonathan Parr (Fred 2T) took us through the PTFA finances. For figures please see Treasurer's letter to the Trustees attached with this email.

The PTFA funds are looking very healthy thanks to the Council paying for the Green Wall which the PTFA had specifically fund raised for. The council have paid for the wall in its entirety.

Jonathan observed that the Summer and Winter Fairs had brought in a good income - the 2018 Winter Fair was particularly lucrative - along with the Location Location sponsorship boards. 2017/18 also saw Lisa Buckingham (Ed, 2T and Martha Y5) organise the first Quiz Night and Auction for parents which was a great success. In addition there are the funds from the School Lottery run by Jasmine Hayward (Cecily 4Y and Vita 2L).

One parent asked Jonathan if we aimed to keep a certain amount of money in the PTFA account, and Jonathan answered that yes, we aim to keep a surplus of about £12000.

Approval of accounts - Jonathan will file the accounts.

Appointment of the Office Bearers or Trustees

- **New Secretary Role** - Greg Allan started out by saying that the PTFA is looking for a new Secretary to replace Jasmine who is stepping down. It was suggested that this could be one person or two. Sophie Broadbridge has now stepped forward for the role (after the AGM)
- **Class Reps** - the PTFA have introduced a new Class Rep system. The idea is to have a representative from each class who can attend PTFA meetings and bring forward ideas, suggestions and issues that arise from their child's class. They will also be able to feedback to parents after the meetings. The aim is also to make coordination of volunteering at school fairs more streamlined.

The new class reps were mostly in attendance and introduced themselves. There was only one rep across 2 classes for Year 2 (Lena Corner) and for Year 4 (Ellara Wakely). The PTFA had not had any volunteers from any parents from Y5 and Y6. It was asked whether any Nursery parents had been asked to be a Rep which they had not. No firm conclusion was drawn as to whether they should.

Report on PTFA activities 2018/19 via the PTFA Committee and Karen

- **Claytime** - the PTFA will fund the Claytime workshop as in previous years for Nursery and Reception.
- **Helen Ham Literary Award** - the PTFA will be providing the cost of the prizes for the Helen Ham Literary award in the Summer Term
- **Playground Worker** - For the past couple of years the PTFA has been funding a Playground worker to help at lunchtime to help include more vulnerable children in playground activities. This is a member of staff from the Fit For Sport team. This has been a successful appointment and the PTFA will continue to fund this. Jonathan asked whether it would be helpful to have another Playground Worker, which would come at a cost of about £2000 for the year. Karen thought this would be useful. **ACTION:** Board to make a vote on this.

- **The Edible Playground** - The school is working with 'Trees for Cities' to launch an 'Edible Playground' in the KS1 small playground. This will be situated in the KS1 playground where the boulders are currently. Once they have been removed and the planting and seating area is in place, it will be a place to grow vegetables and fruit, and will act as an outdoor learning resource. £20k of the cost of this is donated by Bulb Energy and the school contributes £6k. This will include plants, tools, support for the teachers for a year. The school is provided with a gardening calendar for the year that we have to adhere to. Hannah Worthington suggested that this is something the PTFA would like to pay for. All present were in agreement. ACTION - Jonathan to transfer £6k of PTFA funds to school bursar.
- **Cycle Training** - since William Patten has been listed as one of the London schools with unacceptable levels of pollution, the GLA has awarded the school £10k to go towards an environmental project. This money can't go towards air filtration as it's prohibitively expensive (see Tom Knowle's response on air filtration systems below) so Karen is keen to put this towards cycle training for the whole school, from Nursery to Y6. Karen has found one company who will do it but it costs £19.5k. If we use the GLA grant for this, could the excess of £9.5k be met by the PTFA? We can't fit this into this year's calendar, but would hope to in September. The cost of this was discussed, with the idea of looking at other companies, including Cycle Confident, Wheely Tots and Hackney Cycling League. Jim has looked into Hackney Cycling League already and it wouldn't work for our purposes as the children are expected to already have a level of competence. ACTION: In principal the PTFA are keen to help fund cycle training but it would be good to investigate other cycling schemes to see if we can find a more cost efficient one, including Wheely Tots.

Fundraising

- Quiz Night - 7th March 2019 - organised yet again by Lisa Buckingham and Tim. Fully staffed up now and promises to be a great evening.
- Summer Fair - the date is set for Sunday 30th June. The PTFA will be looking for Fair Coordinators nearer the time.
- Art Sale - fundraising idea from Bianca VS (Josh and Jere). No one was sure what the status of this was. ACTION: Hannah will update with Bianca.
- Lottery - Jasmine gave an update on the lottery, which continues to make around £3000 pa for the PTFA. One Reception parent said she had never heard of it and wondered how she could have found out about it. Jasmine said there had been a book bag drop, and monthly postings in the Patten Pages and that there was also a William Patten PTFA Facebook page where it was posted. However, it seemed like a good idea to get class reps to send out info on the lottery if knowledge of its existence was still not known. ACTION: Jasmine to send out lottery info to class reps.
- Bake Sales - we will start monthly bake sales organised by year group a month after the Comic Relief bake sale and will take place on Fridays at 3.30pm. The first bake sale will be Reception, and will go up the school. ACTION: PTFA to set dates for future Bake Sales with Karen.

AOB:

- **Calm area** - One Reception mum who is the mother of twins, said that her son's needs were met at lunchtime as he loves running around but that her daughter has very different needs, and wondered if there a focus on something that can be done in a sheltered space as her daughter is not very physical. Karen explained that the school playground has a Calm Corner in the big playground, but it needs to be relaunched (requested by School Council) The Edible Playground should serve as a calm area in the KS1 playground with seating around it.
- The old chimney in the **KS1 playground** was also discussed. Since the wall has been deemed unsafe that part of the playground is still cordoned off. Hackney Council have to consult with all houses on the road behind in order to fix it, and this is taking time. Karen is regularly chasing the Property Team at Hackney Council on this but they're delaying. Tom Knowles pointed out that

it was a similarly long winded process with the wall at Kynaston Gardens. Karen said she had always liked the idea of a climbing wall in the school playground, and it was suggested when things get moving this might a good site for it, and would be something the PTFA could look in to funding. Greg Allan suggested he could speak to his brother, who works in the areas, regarding ideas and costs.

- **Online Homework** - this term sees the introduction of online homework with Google Classroom. Some parents felt a great resistance to this. One was for handwriting practice. Karen said that the children have plenty of opportunities to write at school. Others pointed out the need to work out maths with a pen and paper. Karen said there was no objection to printing it out and still doing it with a pen and paper at home. Louise VN was concerned about giving such young children a digital footprint. Google, as a US owned company, will track the location and IP address and will be able to see what other sites are visited. One parent said staff members at the BBC were not allowed to use it. Karen said they had started this through LGFL (The London Grid for Learning) and that they are GDPR compliant. Karen said that other local schools use Google Classroom. She also pointed out that it helps enormously with Teacher and TA time, and that she had to find a way to bring their workload down. Karen and Marcus will be taking comments and feedback from parents and will be having a review of the online homework with staff at the end of this term, ie in 4 weeks. It was felt this should also be readdressed at the next meeting.
- **Survey Results** - Greg talked about the survey that went to parents, and one thing that came out of the results was that we should make better use of the PTFA noticeboard and the Facebook Group. ACTION: Greg/Hannah to put more information on the PTFA noticeboard.
- **Red Nose Day/Ban on Plastics** - in a bid to create less waste, the school will not be ordering in red noses this year. The PTFA will look for volunteers to do paint on red noses at the school gates and in the park, and money will also be raised through the bake sale and the sponsored fun run in Clissold Park.
- **Air Purifiers**- one parent brought in a newspaper article about air filtration systems that had been installed in a London school. Tom Knowles of the Clean Air has written the following response. 'Just following up about the indoor air filtration. It is a great idea and we have looked into it previously with a couple of different companies but it is so expensive, about £10K per unit and they would need to be mobile too in order to get them around the school. We would therefore probably need 3 to adequately cover the school, with all the stairs. If your friend was willing to continue looking around companies that do it, in the hope of getting a significantly reduced price or even freebies/sponsorship that would be amazing. There are quite a number of indoor plants around the classrooms too that were bought specifically for their air filtering properties. I suppose we could always get more, and I think self-watering pots would be required. The other much more difficult thing to solve regarding air filtration is that the building is old, and the heating system is by no means "smart" so a number of rooms have the windows open throughout the year, no matter the weather. So it is just going to filter a continuous flow of outside air. What really is needed is a large funding application to retrofit the building sustainably, that would allow a very efficient air filtration and ventilation system to be installed (along with other things such as better acoustics). We've raised this with Karen and at a governor level recently so I'm hopeful that the first steps are being taken toward a long-term solution.
- **Bus Stop** - TFL have confirmed that they will not be moving the bus stop outside the school, a major form of pollution, as it is one of the busiest in London
- **Young Dissenters** - Y4 are doing a music performance on April 5th with other local schools, coached by James who runs the Young Dissenters Choir at St Matthias. Karen is keen to get him back doing more projects as he's very impressive, so will look into pricing it as a possible future project.
- **Dancer in Residence** - the school applied for an arts grant and didn't get it, but we will continue to work with New Adventures on workshops. One in the summer and one in January 2020.
- **Entry and exit in the morning and at the end of the day**- Louise VN asked if the PTFA could put money towards more scooter parking. Karen said they were looking into removing the pretend bus stop in the playground and possibly something could go there. Tom Knowles offered

to donate an unneeded Plant Lock. Karen said the school were already looking into how to work on the flow of the morning rush.

- **Come Dine with Me** - some Reception parents had missed the deadline to RSVP and sign up to Come Dine With Us. It may be worth flagging for the next Reception intake. It was mentioned that there is a lot of information to take in when your child enters Reception and that things are very easy to miss. A Reception parent asked if it would be possible to use the noticeboard outside Reception to communicate events and must-know information, and said that they would be willing to keep the board up to date so as not to place an extra burden on staff. Karen was going to talk to Maria to see if this would be OK.