

## **PTFA Meeting Winter term 2020 Minutes 27.02.20**

Present: Karen Law (Headteacher), Jonathan Parr (Treasurer), Sophie Broadbridge (Secretary),

Rebecca Larpent (2L Rep), Esme Daly (4H Rep), Sel Renton (4H parent), Joe Evans (Reception Parent), Suemay Oram (Nursery & 2S Parent), Fiona McClune (4M Rep), Lucy Harbor (4M & 2L parent)

### **1. Introductions and signing attendance form.**

There was no Class Reps from Year 1, 3 and 5, and no Year 6 parents.

### **2. Introduction to new Chair Marghanita Spooner & Committee.**

Apologies were sent from Marghanita, due to illness she could not attend.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

Jonathan Parr, Treasurer, explained that we have approximately 3 meetings a year and this was our AGM. He gave a summary of our financial situation. A few years ago, we fundraised for a Green Screen but the council then paid for this so we were in a good financial position, having had this extra buffer of funds unused. At the end of the last financial year (April 2019) we had £32,000 in the bank. We agreed to continue to fund the same projects we have done in previous years, such as Claytime in EYFS, Animation workshop for Year 4, Dance project for Year 3, KS1 and EYFS. The PTFA have funded additional playworkers in KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. The playworkers support vulnerable children who find playtime difficult, and they also set up and run games for all the children.

We have made more money by increasing the raffle ticket prices at the fairs from 50p to £1 each. The Estate Agent boards from Location Location helping promote the fairs, have also brought in more revenue, approximately £800 per fair. Jonathan will submit company accounts at the end of this financial year. For practical reasons, the PTFA Bank account has now moved from HSBC to NatWest.

A parent asked what we had as surplus to spend, Jonathan replied that we are likely spend approximately £15,000 this year and hope to raise a minimum of £10K, so will reduce the balance by approximately £5,000. The fairs are the main fundraiser, and as we hadn't previously funded playworkers, we need to make sure the additional costs like this are covered in future years.

Our funding principal is to spend almost as much as we are bringing in, so the pupils receive the benefit of it whilst they are at school, rather than 'rainy day' fundraising.

We try to fund activities that benefit all, either as part of the curriculum, such as the workshops, or as infrastructure projects like the Rooftop Garden, Edible Playground and the Church Street mural. The PTFA can also help by subsidising projects for the school.

### **4. Update from Headteacher Karen Law**

The PTFA had set aside funding for cycle training from Nursery up to Year 6. Karen was then offered match funding from Hackney Council for this, for this year, so the funds are not needed immediately, but we hope to fund cycling courses in future years.

**Concert:** The Christmas Fair 2019 fundraised for children to attend a concert in this academic year. The BBC Symphonic Orchestra are going to be performing at the Hackney Empire in April, so the KS2 classes will be going to this. The event is actually free for schools. The school will still be looking to take EYFS and KS1 to a concert, so the PTFA will fund this.

**Chess:** A parent has offered to run a Chess Club for Years 3 and 4 to help re-establish Chess at the school. The PTFA are funding Chess In Schools and Communities (CSC) workshops for Year 3, on Friday afternoons, an hour each week. This will be an ongoing workshop to fund. The school club will then be available for those children interested in playing chess.

We need additional parents to support this club, they do not need to be Chess Masters, just be able to support the club, and help with the beginners. Please contact Karen Law if you are able to do this.

**Technology:** A parent asked if there were any plans for teaching of technology, in particular coding. A Coding club is currently run on Friday mornings for Years 5 and 6 and some children in Years 3 and 4 also. Karen explained that they would also like to expand the EYFS computing curriculum. Hackney Council do not have a resource for teaching technology to children and staff, so classes have been booked for day workshops at Camden Learning Centre. This is free for Camden schools, but out of borough schools pay £420 per class. Years 1-6 each will do a day's workshop there. Year 3 have been already and made Lego robots. Feedback from staff and children was incredibly positive and all want to go back!

A discussion was had of the idea to develop more lessons in school on technology or alternatively use the resources of centres such as the CLC. Karen said that the CLC have the resources for 30 children in a class, whereas as a school we would struggle to provide this, children would usually have to work in pairs or threes.

Karen said the computer infrastructure budget has a 2-3 year plan provided by the school budget, but would be happy for the PTFA to fund extra technology learning. Rather than one day a year visiting the Camden, Karen would support the PTFA funding an extra day for all classes. This would cost approximately £6,000.

Jonathan explained to newer parents that the PTFA originally bought iPads for the school. Karen said future technology provision would possibly go over to a rental system, due to the pace of upgrading.

The curriculum is run as a blocking system, with blocks of subjects, including Computing, but teachers can still involve Computing as often as they wish on any of the topics.

Rebecca (parent) offered to discuss with the Coding teacher, Frank, what areas the technology teaching could be expanded, and whether it could be developed in KS1 also.

Lucy mentioned a Charity called I am Code, which was set up originally to train women in refugee camps who couldn't read and write, to code. She offered to look into whether they might be able to do a workshop with the school, on how to build a computer.

**Corona Virus:** Karen gave an update on the Department of Education advice on the Corona Virus. She said she would continue to update the parents, and explained that the school was very clean and had a strong cleaning team. The school hasn't had any largescale outbreaks of illness in the past. All the

handles, buzzers and water fountains were being cleaned daily. Also disinfectant was being used daily on keyboards, phones and surfaces. They are going to provide hand sanitizer for each classroom. This routine will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

A parent asked about hand washing routines changing. Karen said this hadn't changed. Reception children wash their hands before lunch, this takes 15 minutes. The children from Year 1 upwards, do not wash their hands before lunch, as they are not coming in from the playground. It would take up to an hour for all the classes in the school to wash their hands, this is not practical. Hand sanitizer will be used and parents can give their child a bottle of alcohol free hand sanitizer for their bag also. The children are taught to wash their hands after going to the toilet and regularly reminded about hygiene.

Sport Relief Day is on Fri 13 March, and there will not be a family fun run in the park this year. All the children will be completing the WP Mile Challenge during the school day around neighbouring streets, completing different physical challenges at various points, and dressed in pyjamas. It was agreed that this was more inclusive for children who couldn't complete the park run as parents were at work.

## **5. Air Quality update by Lucy Harbor (Parent at school, Academic and Clean Air campaigner)**

Lucy provided us with a summary of the pollution issues for newer parents to the school. She explained that the Cabinet Member for Hackney has intentionally moved the bus stop outside the school on Church Street, towards the High Street to trial the bus stop being in this position, and see if the pollution levels improve at the school. This was due to TFL not agreeing to remove it. Please read her update, which includes diagrams and lots of detail to explain the current situation, at the end of the minutes.

There is now a page on the WP website to provide more information, under 'Parents', then 'air quality' .

Front Gates: The gates were replaced for ones that allow less pollution through. Lucy suggested we try to decorate them. The School Council have suggested they get sprayed and the school are looking at anti vandal paint that could be used. The School Council have offered to organise some designs linked to Earth Day by the children. It's possible parents could help paint the designs on. Lucy said it is hard to know whether the gates have made an improvement.

Some of the sections of ivy have died on the green screen. The school will be having these replaced and asking for the Council to cover this cost. A higher spec version plans to go up on St Mary's Church, as the designs of these walls are improving.

Plants in school: A parent suggested plants in the classrooms, Lucy said plants tend to absorb other pollutants like cleaning products rather than air pollution, and you need a lot to make a difference. A suggestion was made to fund raise for new plants in the classroom. Previous installation of plants in the classrooms was tried, and it was hard to maintain. But several felt it would be pleasant to have them, and good to try again.

Indoor Air Filtration Units: Reception parents have asked about indoor air filtration units. The GLA report asked the school to look at this, the estimated cost was in the region of £500,000, and all the windows would need to be kept locked. As the building is old, it makes it more complex.

Lucy told us there are electric filtration systems that are £500-600 each, but need maintaining (including filter changes). Grasmere are trialling some, that they were given for free, so they would find out how well they have worked. Another school a parent's child had attended, had one in each class, they cost about £3,500 each. There would obviously be a financial cost to this for the electricity bill.

Reducing waste: Lucy suggested the school look at trying to reduce their waste, food especially, and she can share case studies on ways to do this through her work. Karen suggested the Eco Council look at this too.

A Year 4 class have done a food waste project. They made a recipe book of ideas for re-using food. Karen said at meal times, they try to encourage children to only take what they will eat, choosing an alternative food was better than taking something that they then wouldn't eat. A parent asked if they are encouraged to finish their food, they are, but are not forced. If they haven't eaten very much, parents will be contacted.

Crisp packet scheme: A parent (Julia) has offered to help with a crisp packet scheme that is being run to reduce numbers of packets being thrown away. They can collect the packets from lunchtime pack lunches.

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/crisppacket>

## **6. New ideas for fund raising & events**

Car boot sale: (no cars) two parents have offered to organize this, date since the meeting has been confirmed, Sunday 29 March, AM (time tbc), in the playground. Parents can rent a table for £10, entry on the gate is £1, both revenues will go to the PTFA, and money made on sales to be kept by stall holder.

Hackney Half Marathon is coming up on the 17 May. A suggestion was made by a parent that if they were participating, and didn't have a specific charity in mind to run for, then they could run for the school PTFA. They could set up a Just Giving Page separate to their registration. Our Charity No is: 110 38 34.

Karen said each year 50-60 children take part in the school event, where they run a mile a week (facilitated by Running Club) and then do the final mile at the event on 17 May with other school children (they run after the adult Hackney Half has finished). It will be opened up to KS2 this year as there is a school Running Club for Years 3 and 4 Years now.

A parent suggested any sponsored event that parents or children are involved in, could fundraise for the PTFA, and all the info required to do this, should be made available. They could gain sponsorship through the PTFA Facebook page.

Film Night: Lucy suggested a film night at school could be fun, one for KS1 and one for KS2. A Friday evening could work.

## **7. Current fundraising update**

The Cake Sales continue, we have had Reception and Year 1 so far. They have raised £260 and £246 respectively. Each one requires 5-6 volunteers, from the specific year that is running the cake sale.

As the Year 2 Cake sale is the same day as the WP Bake Off, all cakes supplied will be entered. Once the cakes have been judged, Children can buy cakes at playtime and then all remaining will be sold at the Year 2 cake sale after school.

**Lottery:** The PTFA lottery has been running for many years.

The lottery works by parents signing up to a monthly direct debit. The minimum requirement is £1 per month, although people typically contribute between £5 - £10 a month - and some people do more than that. There is a monthly draw for which the cash prizes are £40, £30 and £20, which equates to about 30% of the total takings.

We currently receive approx £280 a month after prize money has been taken out, so that's an annual income of £3360 for the PTFA. This figure is an approximate as people leave and join throughout the year. So far we've had very low take up from Reception parents. There have been a few emails from people enquiring about how to join, but after Jasmine responded, they haven't then followed up to actually set up a direct debit - so the intention is there, but there is a failure to follow through. A book bag drop encouraging people to join was carried out just before half term but at the time of writing only one parent signed up.

The lottery currently has 65 members, of which a handful are ex parents and staff, so there is definitely scope for more members.

A discussion was had about a way to make the sign up process easier. Being able to click on a sign up option online could increase numbers. A strong marketing push once this was available would also help. A parent suggested 'Go Cardless' as a way to make the process simpler. More investigation is needed.

**Summer Fair:** will be Sunday 28 June 12-3pm.

A theme was discussed, ideas offered up were Olympic Games, Hawaiian, Moana. Previous themes have been Tropical Jungle (2019), Under the Sea (2018), Endangered Species (2017), Middle East (2016), On the Farm.

**Finding coordinators:** Having coordinators for key areas that then gather volunteers to help is a good system. We are looking for Coordinators for food, drink and barbecue at the fairs, as it's an area that hasn't had as many people offering to help.

We agreed to provide a description of the roles we are looking for so parents could decide if they could do it. A parent said that asking a specific year to run a specific area could ensure there are volunteers. A parent suggested the slots of 1.5 hours were too long, so make them 1 hour might encourage more people.

**Winter Fair Grotto makers:** Paget, a parent who has made Grottos for the Christmas Fairs for several years, is stepping down, so we are looking for someone to do the Grotto. Paget is able to give them guidance and talk them through how she went about it.

**Photobooth:** A parent had looked into renting a photobooth for the Christmas Fair. It was approximately £350 to rent, and comes with a helper. They might not make profit but could be a good 'loss leader', as it draws people to the fair, and provides fun, like the dunk tank. Choosing the right location is key. We agreed to look at it again for the Summer Fair.

A parent said they thought the talent show was really popular and that could be focused on more. A popcorn stall for the watching crowd could be good too.

Card readers: Karen asked if we could buy card readers for the entrance gate and we thought it would also be useful to have one on the food stand and one on the drinks stand. Some school fairs have gone cardless, but we all agreed the children still enjoy having some money to spend.

Quiz Night: This will be in the Autumn term. The parents that can run it have agreed it was a good time for Reception parents to meet each other.

#### **8. New equipment proposed for PTFA**

Investment needed in new tables, cups, storage boxes, glasses and locksmith for fitting a new lock on the shed. Quotes are being gathered for this, but it would be in the region of £2,000. We want to reduce the amount of single use plastic at the fairs, and one way is to ensure we have enough washable glasses and cups. It was agreed the glasses must look obviously re-usable in style so people don't throw them away.

#### **9. Any other business:**

Communication: A parent raised the school communication, she had taken feedback that some parents felt the Patten Pages newsletter wasn't easy to read on a mobile or a desktop, only really good when printed, or on an iPad. Would it be possible to look at re-designing the format? Esme suggested Mail Chimp might work better.

A parent also asked if we could allow the newsletter to be sent to both parents if they wanted that. Karen said she would look into it. Previously the mailing list had been restricted due to cost issues, but she would see if that was still the case, and if not it could go to both.

A noticeboard at each of the entrances was discussed, either a digital or hand written, to give parents reminders of events.

A parent suggested we have content specific curated portals for each year group. Karen mentioned the Sims Parent App was adopted in 2018, for parents to be given updates on school dates. She offered to re-launch it to parents, as the uptake was low.

### **Air Quality at William Patten: Info and projects from Lucy Harbor (Parent at school, Academic and Clean Air campaigner)**

Air pollution monitoring and modelling are not exact sciences (uncertainties of around +/-25%), but generally speaking:

Church St has high levels of pollution (above legal limits)<sup>1</sup>.

Pollution levels drop off as you move through the playground away from Church St.

Pollution also drops off with height, so classrooms on higher levels and at the back of the school will be less polluted than those at the front and on lower levels.

There is no safe level for pollution.

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## Summary of school's pollution issues from GLA report

The mayor of London's school audit report of WP said the key issues are:  
Heavy traffic on the A10 and Stoke Newington Church st.

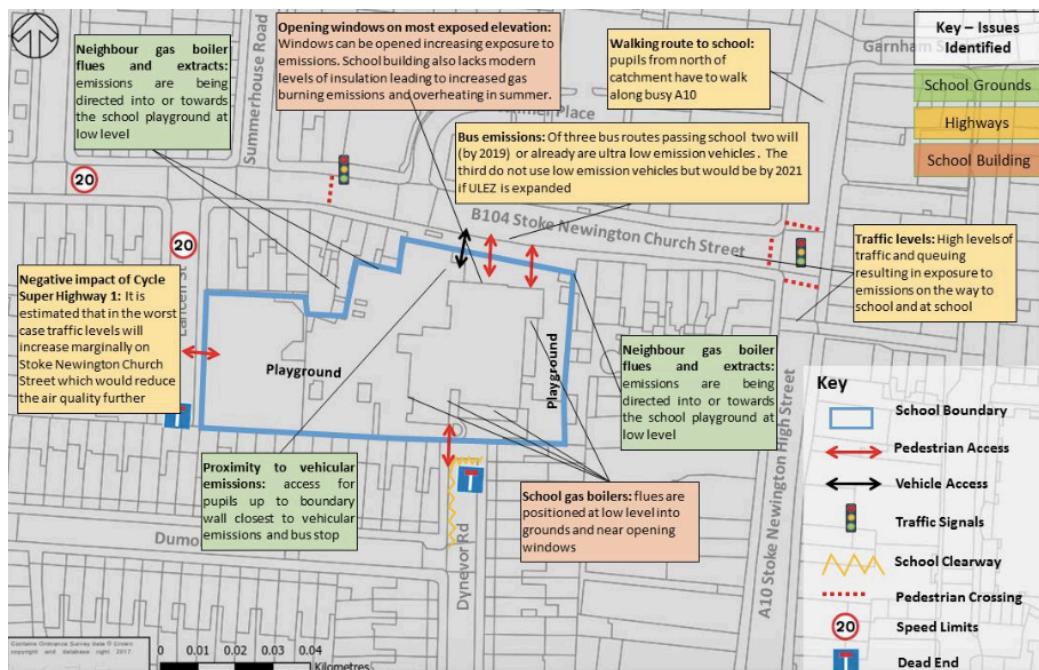
Buses: The largest single contributor to the pollution come from buses.  
Bus stops located outside the school.

The buildings are taller than the road is wide, which creates a 'canyon' effect, where emissions do not disperse quickly. This, the auditors believe, may explain the 'higher concentrations'.

Negative impact of the Cycle Super Highway 1. Walford Road closures would lead to increases in traffic along church and the A10.

Poorly positioned gas burning appliance flues emitting NOx in areas where children play and near open windows.

The heavily trafficked roads surrounding the school increase exposure at the school and on the way to and from school.



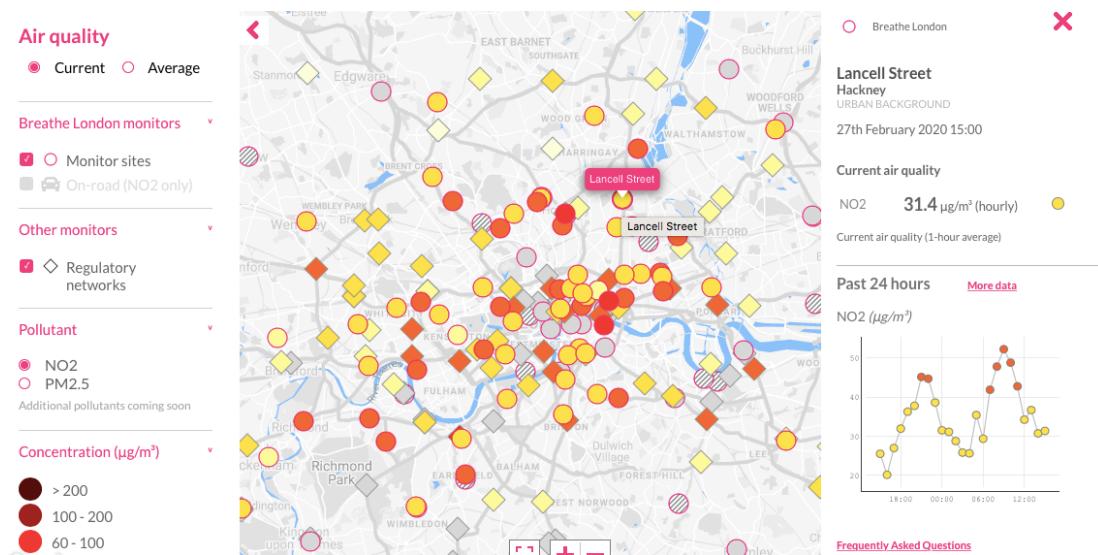
<sup>1</sup> Studies have shown that living on main roads with high levels of pollution, may increase the risk of lung cancer by 10%, and stunt lung growth in children by 3–14%<http://www.erg.kcl.ac.uk/Research/home/projects/personalised-health-impacts.html>

Where to find out more about pollution levels at the school:

William Patten website

<http://www.williampatten.hackney.sch.uk/parents/air-pollution-information/>

Breathe London [www.breathelondon.org](http://www.breathelondon.org) have put a real time NO<sub>2</sub> and PM monitor in the school playground<sup>2</sup>. You can see real time pollution levels for the last 24 hours, and also look at the average since it was installed in April 2018 (which is 31mg/m3).



Hackney Council's Air Quality Status report 2019  
 Shows annual mean diffusion tube readings for William Patten and other schools in the borough.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x3cICUieoHEHyDz7pvz1EzkOARjdiTvF/view>

Pollution modelling reports which predicts pollution levels in 2017 at the school: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-WFYu5v\\_hX9aM-YidVQPvfrVjg-FBS5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-WFYu5v_hX9aM-YidVQPvfrVjg-FBS5/view)

Pollution projects at William Patten so far (see school webpage for more info)

Pollution-absorbing Ivy wall  
 Clean Air for Kids: Cleaner Air route map created by the pupils  
 Campaigning to remove the bus stop  
 Soundscape Project  
 Citizen science – Pupils monitoring pollution

<sup>2</sup> Note pollution levels drop off as you move away from the main road, so levels at the school boundary will be higher than recorded on this website.