

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

PARENTS COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th November 2011

Attendees:

Academy staff: Maggie Leigh Wilkinson – Principal Da Vinci
Sharon Waterman – Principal Darwin

Parents:

BRUNEL: Tracy Roblett, Linda King, Basil Baily, Wendy Rose, Sandra Baily.

CHAUCER: Jacqueline Ellis, Sharon Coles, Glenda Philpott, Ann Burch, Sandy Taylor, Luisa Holmes, Mo Jenson

DA VINCI: - Karen Brooker, Dave Auty.

DARWIN: - Lindsey Deakin, Graham Hatch,

Apologies: - Tim Field, Ann Tickner, Helen Reed, Vicky Lester, Wendy Fairbrass, Machila Bekir, Emma Wigg.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Michael welcomed everyone and introduced himself as Chairman and Tracy Roblett as Vice.

2. Principal's Q & A

MLW introduce SW as new Principal of Darwin.

MLW spoke about possible changes that could be made to the parent council and asked the council to discuss later in the meeting.

Question were raised regarding dates for mock maths exams and actual exam dates. MLW said that all dates were on the web site under events. It was commented that this is not that easy to find and a time table for

these exams could be issued, so parents could ensure students revise and are prepared for the exams.

The canteen fire and closure was raised. SW said the canteen will probably not be back to normal until January due to smoke damage and deep clean being required. Some hot food is being served. It has been reported that the fire was started by a faulty appliance probably a dishwasher and was not vandalism.

The situation of bad weather was questioned with regard to reporting for school closure. MLW said that Radio Kent reports and our web site will be updated. On closure no student is allowed to leave unless they can make their own way home and parents have been contacted.

Whole class detentions were reportedly happening regularly in Chaucer. MLW said she would discuss this with Chaucer Principal, as this is not school policy.

Action MLW

The Gym was enquired about and how many students can use it and at what times as some had been turned away.

Action MLW/SW

The Porto website for parents shows grades for student's behaviour as 1-5 but does not say which way the scale works good to bad/bad to good.

Action MLW

SW said the new head of French has settled in well and there are to be meetings about other languages, Spanish was mentioned.

MLW spoke about role of Parent Governor and explained the role and what is required.

Principals left at 7.30pm

3. Minutes of previous meeting - Agreed.

4. Parent Governor Update – Following on from MLW a new or possibly 2 parent governors are required, FG to confirm number.

Action Frank Green

3-4 meeting per year most starting at 8am but some start at 2pm. Involvement and commitment is needed but it is a very rewarding role. Dave Auty who is standing down after 8/9 years to whom we all thank for his role, spoke about the role. He said there are a lot of changes happening and he sees it as a very important role and gave a good insight into what goes on and is expected. As a governor you get to see what is going on in the school. You would be a governor of just the Leigh Academy, and will become a Director of the Leigh Company. You are insured and liability is limited to £1. You will have an enhanced CRB check carried out. Dave offered to attend the meeting when the new governor/s have been elected to introduce them to the other governors.

We thank Dave for his service in this role.

Milestone school date for changing to Academy is 1st December 2011.
York Road is now April 2012.

Wilmington design meeting finalised 31st October 2011.

MH to find out number of Governors and any other details/rules regarding the role.

Action MH

5. General matters raised

Merit schemes are apparently to be stopped but no real feed back to what is replacing them. If college specific this should be notified to parents/students to avoid conflict amongst colleges.

Tracy Roblett reported that she had not had a chance to action the 'recycling shop' but will contact Jill Hickman.

ACTION TR

MH spoke about possible changes to the Parent Council, these included, changing the name, inviting the student council, head boy/girl, head of Maths/English, other members of Parent Councils from the other Academies. More information on the Web site and a separate section on the web, perhaps a Forum for parents. Plans to put agenda for meeting on web prior to meeting so questions could be raised before the meeting. More information from the Principals as to what issues they would like raised. Better communication with the school and parents. Opening the Council up to other parents via electronic means, especially those who are unable to attend meeting. Changing the day or time from a Monday on a few occasions to enable other parents to attend. Changing the format of Principals Q&A maybe more direct agenda items.

MH asked members for any other ideas they may have to improve the role we have.

Please Email MH with any ideas you may have, these will be collated and put forward at the next meeting and then to the Principals in January 2012.

Action All/MH

6. Any other Business

Wendy Rose has volunteered to now take and issue minutes for future meeting. Thank you.

TR told parents about the monies that was left over from the old PTA before the Academy and suggested that due to no canteen that we could spend it on a hog roast/Bar-b-que for the whole school so all the pupils could have a Christmas dinner FOC. To be discussed with Principals but generally thought to be a good idea.

Action TR/MH/WR

Meeting ends 8.45pm

Next meeting Monday 5th December 7pm