

Minutes from AAA PTA meeting the 13th July 2020

Present: Mrs Dupras, Marta, Annie, Jérôme, Jonathan, Carly, Kevin, Naomi T, Jody, Anette.

Apologies: Steve

1. Introductions and background

This was the first AAA PTA meeting since the new Head Teacher, Mrs Dupras, joined the school and the meeting was held over Zoom due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic.

The PTA welcomed Mrs Dupras to AAA and thanked her for taking the time to join the meeting in what only can be described as a very busy and unusual time for the school.

2. Temporarily PTA arrangements

It was agreed that the contacts between the school, the temporary PTA and the wider parental collective should continue on an informal basis during the remainder of the year whilst working together towards the common goal to set up a more formal PTA structure and register the PTA as a charity as soon as practicable.

Jonathan (Oliver's and Harvey's dad) has agreed to function as the temporary chair for the PTA during this period, Jody (Arabella's mum) has volunteered as temporary treasurer and Anette (Selma's mum) has volunteered as temporary secretary. They have also volunteered to, on behalf of the PTA and the wider parental collective, prepare the setting up of the legal arrangements required for transferring the PTA to a charitable trust. Once the foundations are set, all posts will be up for election.

However, as previously, the preparation for and successful running of social events and fundraising campaigns will heavily depend on the continuous support of the wider PTA community and their time and knowledge.

The first step will be to get the PTA account un-locked and Mrs Dupras and Jonathan included in the list of account signatories.

Another early preparation will be to consider if we should join an organisation like Parentkind UK to get access to document templates and support in the transformation process. Mrs Dupras has previous experience of this and believes it might be a good idea to save time and effort for the volunteers involved.

3. PTA assets in the separation between AAA and WASPs school organisations

A question was raised about what has happened to the school minibus and the 7-seater car

which AAA parents and the PTS helped fund in previous years – they have not been seen at the school for a while and the fear is that they have been allocated full time to WASPS without the economical side of the “deal” having been sorted.

This is a priority for the PTA to get resolved, as a significant amount of money has been spent on this to enable transport of the children between WASPs and AAA and to extra-curricular activities arranged via the school. Mrs Dupras promised to check and come back to the PTA with the information.

The BBQ purchased by the PTA last year appears to have gone missing.

Meeting afternote: The BBQ was located promptly after the meeting and brought back to AAA.

4. Purchase of library resources

Mrs Dupras was informed about the previous agreement from the PTA to help fund library resources for the school. She is working on a wish-list together with the school librarian and the school will gratefully accept donations from the PTA to help with the funding.

Books as well as library software will be included in the wish-list and an annual contribution of £500-600 from the PTA should be very welcome to gradually build up the library as the school grows.

It was agreed that some of the fundraising during next term will be “ear-marked” for this purpose.

5. Cost for Breakfast- and After School Club

Several parents have asked why the fees for the Breakfast and After School club have increased by almost 100% from the start of September. There have also been worries from some individuals raised about their ability to pay the increased fee.

Mrs Dupras explained that the cost for providing those clubs cannot be subsidised by the school funds and that the fees will be increased to cover the cost for staff, better food provision and resources for the children to play with.

Payment via childcare vouchers is accepted and there is also a plan to offer more flexibility in the booking of the sessions when the Governmental COVID-19 guidance allows.

However, Mrs Dupras stated that if someone is honestly struggling to afford the fees, they are strongly encouraged to contact her to find a solution, so the children do not miss out. Individual funding might be available under certain circumstances, especially for students eligible for Pupil Premium funding. This information will be fed back to the parents by the

PTA, with particular care to make sure the individuals who have expressed concern will receive the information.

6. Development of the School Grounds/Outdoor Areas

The plans for development of the school grounds were discussed briefly.

In principle, everyone agreed that those areas need to be developed and that cooperation between the PTA, volunteering parents and the school staff are the right way to go.

Also, if some of the work could be done and/or material donated by external providers when the time is right, that should be much appreciated.

However, as the COVID-19 situation is at the moment, only essential contractors and external visitors are allowed to enter the school. This is a requirement from the Trust and appears to be non-negotiable for the moment so the project has currently been put on hold.

Also the previously discussed developments of a “Scrap Store Area” and some kind of Play Pod were mentioned. Mrs Dupras explained that this is currently also restricted due to the pandemic, but that she believes that it is a good idea to come back to future on.

7. Staffing situation

Mrs Dupras informed the meeting that the formal separation between AAA and WASPs has recently been conducted and all the teachers working at AAA are now full-time employed by the school. Also support staff and the new caretaker Siobhan are employed directly by AAA.

8. Next meeting

Early September, date and time tbc.

/Anette (Temporary Secretary for the PTA)