

BEECH HOUSE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES 15th SEPT 2010

Present Mrs Northin, Simon Burke, Dorthe Grainger, Julie Ann Flynn, Saveena Pomian, Catherine Lintott, Daniella Wiggetts, Diane Brennan, Tracey Brocklehurst, Nicola Harris, Stephanie Martin, Ivan Coetree, Catherine Schofield, Eilidh Chitre, Mike Dixon, Ayisha Chariwala, Justine Johnson, Michelle Dixon, Belinda Duffy, Debra Jones, Bhavna Luhar, Vicky Hayton, Ramya Sugamar, Amanda Nuttall, Vishnukumar Govindaraj

Apologies Amanda Valentine, Stephanie Murray, Lisa Forshaw, Gaynor Holt-Gregson

Minutes Saveena Pomian

1 Welcome

Simon welcomed Mrs Northin and the new parents. He outlined some of the projects and achievements of the last year, including a visit by 'the hedgehog lady', a whole school trip to Horrid Henry and new staging for the school. He advised that one of the aims of the PA is to raise money which can be used to enhance the children's school experience and help to buy equipment such as the playground pirate ship. The PA would welcome new ideas both for possible projects and ideas to raise funds. There is a hope that some of this year's projects will also get the teachers and children involved.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last minutes were outlined and adopted. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the minutes should contact Dorthe on beech.house.pa@talktalk.net

3 Feedback from Recent Events

Colour Me Beautiful – a small event with fewer people than expected, however the intimacy allowed for a more personal touch to the presentation. A financial loss was made but was enjoyed by those who attended

Sports Day – the refreshments stall provided sold out, and made a total of £124. Notes for next year, alternative drinks as the punch did not sell well, the purchase of a pop up gazebo should be considered and Mrs Northin suggested that this could be printed with the school logo

Uniform Sale – June, £934.50 profit made from sale

New Parents Coffee Morning – school bags were sold and refreshments provided, however next year, biscuits should be provided and six volunteers will be needed

4 Beech House Report

Mrs Northin outlined the main points of the PA constitution, anyone wishing a copy should contact Mrs Northin via Mrs Gore.

A permanent outdoor multi section sand/water pit area has been agreed on at a cost of £4000. Half of this has been assigned through Bolton School's development fund; the remaining £2000 will be funded by the PA

Mrs Northin agreed with the idea that the PA could work towards a large project, which could be built upon year on year and felt a good project would be the development of the grass area at the front of the school. Ideas for this area included an outside adventure classroom where children could problem solve in groups using natural materials, an amphitheatre, a creative and quiet area, development of dens and a climbing/assault area. It would ideally last 20-30 yrs and would provide a safe environment for the children. Some companies provide a free design service and the school bursar and planning department could aid in liaison with council planners.

5 Swimming

Run by Nicola Harris and Stephanie Martin, Saturday morning in the Sports Centre, attended by Mainly Beech House children but also some Junior school children. Currently 97 children enrolled, slightly less than last year, but 17 still to be assessed who could not attend the July assessment. Lessons £4.50 per half hour lesson, no increase from last year. Groups of 8 maximum for the older children and 6 maximum for new starters. Good uptake of pool side helpers for early times, volunteers still needed for 11.30am and 12noon sessions. If more places become available, may need a reminder to be circulated again later in the school year. Next year, leaflets regarding the swimming to be made available at the Summer Fair, New parents' coffee morning and on the Beech House Web Site

6 Treasurer's Report

£10,266 currently in account

£2,939.96 of this has been raised from events since the end of the last financial year, ending May 2010.

Of the £7000 available from last year's fundraising, £3000 has already been accounted for by previous purchases, £1000 will be kept in hand, £2000 will be made available for the aforementioned sand and water set for the play ground.

Diane Brennan has kindly agreed to audit the accounts for last year

7 Website

Mrs Northin has kindly taken responsibility for updating the Beech House web site, this will be addressed on Fridays, with changes relevant to the following week.

8 Forthcoming Events

a. Family Ramble

Planned for Sunday 26th September, meet at 'Top Barn' of Rivington Barn at 10.30 to set off walking at 11am, Planned to last 2-3 hours, a picnic and wet weather clothes are advised. Should be suitable for young and old and is open to the whole family. Flyers to go out in bags in next few days, Saveena will organise this

b. New Parents' Evening

Refreshments to be provided, Simon to purchase these, to inc wine, cheese, nibbles, etc, (100 people) Dorthe to organise glasses, Justine, Simon, Stephanie, Dorthe, Ayisha have kindly volunteered to assist. No charge will be made, but donations requested, Julie Ann to provide the container

c. Uniform Sale

Monday 18th October 3pm in the hall, Mrs Northin will update website, Justine, Tracey, Stephanie, Michelle, Julie Ann (possibly Lisa Forshaw) have kindly volunteered to assist

d. Back to School Disco

Planned provisionally for 19th Nov, 6-8pm, Dorthe to check availability and cost of the Scout Hut, Saveena to contact 'Looby Loo', local clown for availability to host and provisionally book. Siblings will be invited, a charge of £5 per child, adults free, with requested ratio of one adult to supervise no more than 3 children, parents must stay to supervise their own children. Refreshments to be provided, details to be discussed at the next meeting. Dorthe will arrange advertising/tickets for the event

e. Bonfire night

Organised by Girls' Division on 7th November, Amanda Valentine enquired if Beech House would be interested in setting up a games stall to entertain the children prior to the fireworks. The committee decided against this. Julie Ann will inform Amanda of the decision

f. Harvest Festival

Wednesday 6th Oct. Mrs Northin explained changes to this year's event. Year 2 will present the service, assisted by year 1, starting at 2pm. It is hoped that 2 tickets will be available per child to the families of these children. Reception children will be involved in activities in their class rooms, to which Reception parents will be invited to attend and join in from 2.30pm. Children may go home with parents after the services. Confirmed details will be made available to parents closer to the event. The charities supported will remain the same as last year. Volunteers will collect tickets, collect and arrange produce and collect donations. Daniella, Stephanie, Ayisha, Michelle, Justine, Tracey, Caroline (possibly Catherine) will be able to assist along with Ramya and Vicky in Mrs Shaw's class. No other siblings can be accommodated

g. Christmas Fundraiser

Ideas included fun mats, cards and tea towels. A vote was taken and tea towels were voted in with a large majority with Mrs Northin's approval. It was decided that each class would have an individual tea towel, the price suggested was £5 for one and 3 for £10. Saveena will look into this further and provide update on the next meeting. It was decided that a design should be developed for each class and pre-orders taken

An enquiry was made if Beech House could run a stall at the Christmas Fair at Park Road. Daniella will enquire and report back at the next meeting

h. Santa Letters

Mrs Northin suggested that the Sixth Form Girls may be able to assist, Simon will liaise with Rainy Williamson regarding the templates then will liaise and Mrs Northin

i. Christmas Party

Tues 14th December, Simon will be able to arrange presents as per last year. Further details to be discussed at the next meeting

9 Other Business

Julie Ann is looking into whether a lottery requires a licence and what would be involved. This may be a way of getting other parents involved without a time commitment.

Mrs Northin suggested input from a company called Happy Feet who would come in and measure and assess the children's feet and could also provide a referral to a podiatry service. They provide a range of suitable school shoes at lower than the recommended retail price. No decision was made regarding this

10 Next Meetings 7.30 pm @ Beech House

Monday 11th October

Tuesday 9th November

