

Minutes from PTA AGM Wednesday Nov 6 2011

Those present

The Academy Principal Mr Latham, the treasurer/secretary Ms Green, the acting Head of Music Mrs Frankish and nine parents, Mrs Rutland PTA Chairperson, Mrs Adams vice secretary, Mrs Shields vice chair, Mrs Trafford, Mrs Dryden, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Papprell, Mrs Gornall, Mrs Vipond and Mrs Uddin, Mrs Shearer
Apologies were noted from:

Mrs White, Mrs Marron, Mrs Fordham, Mr Maqbool, Mrs Robson and Ms Wilkinson

The Agenda and finance document were both distributed.

The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and signed the minutes from the last meeting.

The secretary made her report.

Kathryn Adams our former secretary and now deputy kindly e-mailed everyone on what was the group PTA mailing list to ask if they wished to stay on this list – replies were to come to me and from this I now have a list of what I hope are interested parties, a much smaller list than the previous one, it contains less than 20 names.

Meetings are held at regular intervals, usually 1 per half term, days are regularly rotated to try to accommodate all.

Minutes are on placed on the PTA section of website via the very accommodating Mr Mark Nicholson – thank you – Mark also flagged up tonight's event on the website.

Events helped with during last year since last AGM include:

Summer concert, Christmas concert, yr 11 fashion show, French Drama evening, student EPQ event, Murder Mystery, Disco, all 5 STCEs, post 16 open evening and the big Academy open evening, 14 events throughout the last year.

Forthcoming events ie before Christmas

Christmas Concert (in dining room) and possible Disco – no date as yet.

Next event in Jan is yr 11 STCE.

The treasurer made her report

Many thanks once again to Mrs Angela Robson for preparation and overseeing of accounts
Funds now stand at £8,442:89p and given we have little opportunity to make money now this is quite pleasing

You can see where money is coming from – the Murder Mystery was by far our biggest money raiser.

Discussion took place about the Murder Mystery and given that there is to be an Academy production in during the summer term it was decided to not hold a Murder Mystery this academic year.

It looks as if the Christmas concert is the bigger money maker but last year was a 'one off' as all the money raised was for band uniform, we usually only get a proportion of this with the rest going to charity. Please note the very kind parental donation of £300 - my understanding is that this is towards band uniform.

Nothing has happened with band uniforms mainly because HOD Music, Mr Allen, is currently in Cyprus with the TA.

During last year there was a PTA donation of £1,000 pounds for the greenhouse but that was all; before that it was Lego enrichment that benefited.

Equipment Mr Stanton once spoke about has not been mentioned again.

You can see that we have not had a lot of expenditure mainly since Mr Fraser's long ago very kind offer that the Academy would provide tea/coffee at events via the redoubtable Mrs Bolko and her catering department.

Will this still continue in these times of economic cutbacks? The Principal said yes.

Main costs were refreshment meaning drinks, ice cream etc for the Disco and the Murder Mystery and also the cost of NCPTA membership.

It has been suggested that the treasurer e-mail all staff/depts to ask them if they would like to make bids for funds and these bids to be discussed at next meeting in the new year – idea to be discussed at next meeting.

We would like to contribute towards the 3 post 16 students/scouts trip to Ghana – please see website for more details. Karen Shield's son Tom plus Matthew and Ruth are going to paint a school, help in a clinic and help set up scout troop? Amount to be discussed at next meeting. Karen is a PTA stalwart and as Tom is now in yr 13 so one of the people we will soon lose.

It has been suggested by students that the Academy should have 3 main charities, a local one, a major one and a foreign one but I don't seem to be able to find out if that decision has yet been made though there are details about the school in Kenya that Mr Rodway (a former student and former staff member) has been involved with on the Academy website

At the next meeting we could discuss possibly offering a sum to one or all of these?

Minor discussion took place about these items with further discussion scheduled for the next meeting.

All current officers were unanimously re-elected with Mrs Lynn Rutland as Chairperson, Ms Stephanie Green as Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs Karen Shields as vice chair, Mrs Kathryn Adams as vice secretary. Mrs Helen Duncan may well be willing at a later date to take on one of these positions.

The Chair made the point that most of the current main PTA leading members and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the committee have children heading towards leaving the academy and so 'new blood' is needed to follow on and keep up the good work. Discussion took place about how to attract new members, only two e-mail addresses were gained from the last year 6 Parent's Evening. How do we engage parents is the question. This issue to be addressed again at the next meeting. The Chair and Mrs Laurissa Papprell recently attended an NCPTA event held locally to try to get ideas for fund raising and how to engage parents. This too will be addressed at the next meeting.

A lively discussion took place about possible ways to raise the PTA profile, to raise money and about what we thought students would prefer.

A parent offered feedback from her child that the word 'Disco' is now outdated, an interesting point that was useful to know. After discussion a Party of some sort was proposed.

Looking at the Academy calendar showed lots of events in December and asking staff to attend/assist with yet another seemed unrealistic so it was proposed that there should be a New Year Party. It was proposed that students are to be informed about it before the Christmas break, tickets sold during the first week after the holiday and the event to take place during the second week of the new term.

SG to speak to post 16 students about the provision of live music as there are members of 3 different bands in yrs 12/13. SG also to consult the studio re the practicalities of such an event and to speak to Miss Daffurn about this.

Mr Latham is due to meet student council members the week beginning Dec 5 so he is to ask what sort of events students would like and prior to this SG to e-mail tutors to ensure all reps primed ready with information to pass on.

Meeting closed with tea, provided by the Academy, and cakes provided by the Chair, Mrs Lynn Rutland.

Next Meeting 6pm Wednesday December 14th 2011 in the Burton Room.

