

The Disraeli School

Parents Council

Date: 22.4.10

Present:

Paula O'Shea, Jeremy Mitchell, Jatinder Virk,

Apologies:

Tony Vaughan, Tim Sparks

JV apologised that a reminder flier had not gone out to parents but looking back first week after holidays was maybe not a good choice.

Possible ways to get more parents thoughts were:

- Speaking to parents on playground as they collect their children

JM suggested sending an email reminder about the parent council meeting to the people down for going.

Action:

School to email/text parents who are down to come to Parent Council meeting

Rewards

JM brought up KS1 rewards and felt that over a week children get too many sweets. JV/PO were surprised at this but would look into it.

Action: JV/PO talk to Staff/children about when sweets re given at/how often and look at possible other rewards.

Parents having opportunities to look at pupil work regularly

JM mentioned that talking to his children when asked what they have done at school their response was now often nothing. Parent/Teachers meeting showed what good work was happening in school. He had been speaking to another parent and both felt that just seeing the books a small number of times over the school year does not give parents the opportunity to support/consolidate from home as much as they could if they were better improved.

There was a discussion about sending books home; PO shared that where some families/children would be very good in looking after books and bringing them into school others would not.

JM asked if after school would be possible; PO shared how difficult this would be to manage with teachers/rooms being used for meetings and clubs.

JV talked about difficulties about books with different teachers in different rooms and also parents in at the beginning of the day when the focus was focus on reading/spelling/writing.

Action: JV to look into possible system where parents book to see their childrens books at 2.40 in the conference room. It would focus on one area of the curriculum; a member of staff would be available if anything needed clarifying. There would be a limit on number of parents at any one time and the session would finish at 3pm so that parents could collect their children.

Letters home to parents

JM shared that talking to another parent both felt that the language used in letters home was always not suitable and parents did not always understand what was happening in school. More explanation was needed i.e. Curriculum for Year 2 - "Variation", "Control"
Year 1 letter - "Rennie Close Park"
Whole school letter - MM Productions - Alice in Wonderland

JV said she understood and would be more aware in future and asked JM to let her know as soon as he got a newsletter that was not completely clear.

Action: JV to speak to school staff about clarity of letters home

Fundraising

JM also commented on fund raising and said having a clear focus i.e. the running track @ £6000 may make people more interested to donate when asked. He also suggested showing the progress on the news letter e.g. "We have now raised £1000 of £6000 needed for our running track".

Action: JV to action

School Kitchen

JM asked what was happening with plans for a school kitchen. JV explained that as school had extended site i.e. Y1 classrooms/childrens centre our gas/electric supply was at capacity. However we will have a smaller kitchen from September with a server; this means we can serve hot meals but also use it as a teaching base for children/parents.

Next meeting: 17th June 2pm