



Minutes for the Parent Consultation Group

Meeting Date: 3rd December 2018 at 9am

Venue: Winter Gardens Academy, Canvey, Essex

Attendees: Catherine Stalham – Headteacher (CS) Gemma Thurston – Admin, Clerk (GT) Jeff Mazzoni – Foundation PCG (JM) Lorraine Wilson (LW) Simon Harbrow – CEO (SH) Steve Newman (SN) Gemma Tomsett YF PCG (GTo) Hannah Gosling (HG)

Apologies: none

Not in attendance: Emma Humberstone, Nik Males, Alina Bensusan, Yvette Hawkins, Claire Watson, Jo Pooley, Chelsi McFarlane

Actions from last meeting:

1. Consultation re preschool times on a Friday to be sent out to parents.
2. Use Facebook to promote home-made costumes for next year by posting photographs.
3. Annual social media week event. Miss Roche to investigate videos suggested by PGC.
4. CS to put about the afternoon tea on the newsletter to explain to parents and promote on Facebook.
5. Check parent details with the office – CS. Put a reminder on the newsletter. Ensure sports day dates goes on the calendar on the newsletter.

Minutes:

1. Actions from last meeting: Consulted parents on preschool and was a 50/50 split so times will remain as they are. Science day was homemade costumes and world book day promoted homemade ones – school will continue to do this. Social media week will take place organised by Miss Roche. All other actions completed by CS.
2. Evaluation of Summer Single plan: leadership for summer – all leaders have a good idea of the strengths and areas to develop. CS explained parents may have noticed more special days to promote different subjects e.g. friendship Friday etc. CS explained this will continue in the Autumn Term to focus any gaps on data to meet targets. CBH loved friendship Friday and Anti-bullying Week. SN said his child found it positive too. CS explained that OFSTED said we needed to address perceptions of bullying from parents and children from the investigating they did during the inspection. CS said the children now seem to understand this better. CBH suggested that the information given out to children be given to parents. CS explained that this was done through the homework. CS explained we will address different kinds of bullying on a termly basis e.g. racial bullying.
3. Single Plan Improving teaching and learning: embedding talk for writing approaches across the whole curriculum, which has taken place. In Maths we have looked at developing children's reasoning skills verbally and through activities – progress has



been positive. For Autumn this is moving onto ensuring the language of reasoning is being used for all children at all levels. There are scaffolds up for children and teachers are modelling thinking and practising different phrases to support this.

4. Single Plan Behaviour for learning: in summer was pride and presentation with the afternoon tea to reward. CS explained this has improved across the school. HG has noticed the improvement with her children at home. CS says talking about it and promoting all the time has helped with this. CBH asked if the afternoon tea will return, which it may do in Spring term dependent on the areas of focus on the single plan. CS asked Gt to explain the new behaviour for learning focus for autumn which is "KWL". GT explained that we are trying to develop the children's challenge choice to ensure they do not choose work that is too easy, or always the same challenge. So the 'K' is where pupils have to think about what they already know? Then they think about the 'W', What do I want to learn? Then they evaluate what they have learnt to inform the following day. Gt explained the pupils are really valuing the strategy. GTo explained that the workshops school provides helps the parents to help their children at home. CS explained we want children to have a mindset of challenge and we are thinking about removing the labels of challenge altogether so pupils focus on the learning skills they are developing. LW suggested that they do KWL as part of their homework too.
5. Single Plan Outcomes: CS explained we were looking at how we can increase the progress of the pupil premium children. CS explained that we are closing the gap but we need to do this quickly. This term we will be focusing on the individual children overcoming their specific personal learning barriers.
6. EYFS: last term the focus was around school readiness, including being ready to learn Maths and phonics. CS explained we have seen a positive shift in school readiness for pupils coming from our preschool. Cs explained this term we are looking at speech and language assessments as a baseline so we can pick up on pupils that may need extra support. CBH feels that her child was ready for school due to changes in preschool and it feels better in preschool now. CS explained that the preschool feels part of the school and both agreed the manager has worked hard to do this.
7. SH asked CS to explain where the single plan foci will be next term. SH explained what pupil premium is and explained some of the barriers – e.g. no breakfast, learning barriers, problems at home including safeguarding concerns. CS explained that the leadership area for the single plan will continue to focus on curriculum, but will be more around GT's leadership in line with the renewed OFSTED framework with the three I's (Intent, Implementation and Impact) to ensure our curriculum meets the needs of the children. OFSTED want schools to consider the Intent, implementation and Impact of the curriculum. CS explained an example of this was our decision as a school to take part in the Canvey Zing, to promote tolerance. In English we will be looking at ensuring pupils do not forget basic skills and ensuring



teachers are tenacious about this. This will be the same in Maths and we will be focusing on the mental recall of basic skills. SH explained that the year 4 times table test will be implemented by the government. This will be part of single plan next term. CBH asked if there are any resources that can be bought – e.g. wall charts to help pupils? GTo explained that there are parent apps out for this already. SH explained schools are buying in TT Rockstars and WGA have bought this – as the school pays for the subscription. SH explained we are refining the homework across the trust. CS explained Behaviour for learning will be metacognition. Gt explained what this was thinking about thinking and thinking about learning to give pupils life skills to challenge themselves so they can become lifelong learners. SH explained that the jobs are pupils have, have not yet been created so this is an important skill to learn. Key outcomes will become pupil premium leadership with Emma Roche taking over this leadership role. We will have an external review of this. EYFS – will be either continuing with speech and language or boys writing. CS needs to consult with Jade Vickers on this.

8. Questions from Directors to consider: SH explained there are no issues tasked at the moment. CS asked about the parent survey and that a lower score was around providing feedback to parents for the last two surveys. CS explained we do similar things to the other trust schools – so how can we improve this going forward? CBH asked if the class dojo can be used for teachers to comment to parents. GTo asked if tapestry could be used for this? CS explained it is a per child subscription. LW asked about the communication book the preschool used to use. CS explained this has developed into in the moment planning and communication on tapestry. GTo said it would be helpful to have a two-way conversation about something the child is struggling with. LW suggested using the reading diaries to communicate. SN suggested that comments are only made in the reading book if there is an issue in the reading diary in order to consider teacher workload. HG suggested ad hoc communication should be positive as well and not just negative.
9. GTo explained that she is working with schools in Thurrock to help schools to be Dementia Friendly – are WGA doing this? CS explained maybe GTo could consider this with GT or Miss Everingham as PSHE lead. GTo to share resources with GT and have a discussion.
10. School trips and morale. LW explained that she has listened to parents on the playground where school trips have been unable to go ahead and this has caused some negativity for parents and pupils. SH asked for solutions? LW suggested that the trip closes once the coach is filled or open it up to other classes to fill the trip. HG explained that school is tied by the law as school cannot exclude anyone and the contribution has to be voluntary. CS explained it is not the child's fault if the parent doesn't not pay, that we would want all children to have the same opportunities and school has had to make difficult decisions. LW asked if we can go back to a yearly fee? CS explained this is difficult logistically. SN suggested you cannot please





everyone however you do it and it is not the child's fault. CBH explained that FOWG have looked into helping with trips, but some parents may then opt out of paying so they have voted not to help. CS explained that this could help the costs to come down. CBH suggested educating the parents around trips and contributions. SN felt this may not help to change anything. HG asked if this is an issue in the other trust schools? SH explained it ebbs and flows but that it happens more here. SN suggested over pricing the first trip to pay for later ones. SN said he has a contact to maybe reduce the prices of coaches. HG suggested we use the same company across the trust to save money if a deal can be made.

11. Foundation toilets: CBH explained that pupils cannot push down the taps. CS explained that the site manager has now ordered some sensor taps to make it easier. They will be delivered this week so should be fitted by the end of next week.
12. Next Meeting: Monday 11th March 2019 at 9.00am

Actions:

1. Send out a reminder for the meeting nearer the time and investigate letter sent to CW. CS
2. Explore class dojo to communicate with parents.
3. PCG and CS to investigate with parents' different ways we can communicate with parents (every day tool).
4. Consider a longer process to plan trips to give parents the opportunity to pay for trips in instalments. Consider educating parents about trips and the voluntary contribution. SH to consider
5. CS to write to each parent so there is a clear message of when the next meeting is – with a reminder.
6. Consider KWL as part of homework.

