

## **Woodberry Down Parents' Council Meeting – 11 January 2018**

---

Meeting called to order at 9.20am by chair Darren Letford

### **PRESENT:**

- Mr Hewie, Woodberry Down Headteacher
- Miss Williams, New Wave Federation Assistant Headteacher
- Darren Letford, Chair
- Aiden Selsick, Vice Chair
- Hilary Cohen, Minnie Lau, Heba Massri, Aisha Phoenix

### **APOLOGIES:**

- Greg Ó Ceallaigh

### **NOT PRESENT:**

- Tahmina Sattar
- Vrushika Kasba

### **BUSINESS:**

#### **Role of parent council:**

- Mechanism for parents to raise concerns
- Mechanism to celebrate the achievements of the school, including teachers and other members of staff.
- Mechanism for the Federation to feedback to us so we can disseminate this to parents

#### **Welcome and introductions**

- Darren – Chair of the Parents' Council and parent of Year 1 pupil
- Hilary – Parent of pupils in Years 1 and 3
- Miss Williams – New Wave Federation Assistant Headteacher
- Mr Hewie – Woodberry Down Headteacher
- Heba – Parent of Year 1 pupil
- Minnie - Parent of pupils in Years 2 and 3
- Aiden – Vice Chair and Parent of Pupil in Reception
- Aisha – Parent of Year 1 pupil

#### **How do we communicate and engage with parents?**

- We will celebrate a member of staff each term for the excellent work they do and the winner will receive a meal voucher (if Friends of Woodberry Down agree to finance this). Parents will be asked to nominate teachers or members of staff, writing the reasons for their nominations.
- It was suggested that we ask for nominations for Teacher of the Year (one term), Teaching Assistant of the Year (the next term) and Non-academic Staff Member of the Year (the following term). We need to decide how to choose the winners: number of votes v. most compelling reason for the nomination.
  - o We need to design a poster to call for nominations.
  - o We will direct parents to the website so they can see the names of the teachers.

### Digital communication and publicising the Parents' Council

- We need to devise a strategy.
- Talking to parents at the gate in the morning is one of the best ways to communicate.
- Twitter is another good way to communicate with parents.
- We could attend the upstairs assembly to talk to parents of upper years about the parent council and also speak to parents in the KS1 assemblies.
- We will create a flyer to hand out to parents at assemblies, including requests for nominations for best teacher and for agenda items.
- Sheila puts the calendar of school events on the website. We will check that so we can publicise the parents' council at school events.
- Teachers could also help us to publicise the Parents' Council.
- We discussed having a Pay-as-you-go mobile, but it was decided that if parents want to contact the Parents' Council, they can leave a message with Sheila or send an email.
- All parents involved with the Parents' Council need their photos on the school poster so parents know who to approach.
- We need reps to be the voices for parents in their respective year group.
- Darren will soon write a short paper about where we are now, how we got here and where we want to be by April or May.

### Matters raised:

- Some parents are concerned that their child's teacher doesn't tweet. Mr Hewie explained that engagement with social media is dependent on the individual teacher. Some like Twitter, some don't. Some parents like Twitter, some don't. Nonetheless, Twitter is a good way for teachers to see best practice and to find out news. It is also a good way for parents to access information that is useful for their children.
- NB. The Interactive Learning Diary is only for children in nursery and reception.
- The school Twitter page is a voice for the school, advertising upcoming events and dates.

### School priorities 2017-2018:

- The school's leadership team sets the key objectives. They write a development plan at the beginning of the year based on different points, such as pupil attainment and standards from the previous year, including: the end of year 1, 40-word phonics screening test consisting of real and made up words, SATs at the end of year 2 and SATs at end of year 6.
- The school looks at groups: gender, ethnic groups, disadvantaged children (Free school meals) and those who receive a pupil premium grant and children with special needs.
- **Key school objectives: 1 - to increase the percentage of pupils with high prior attainment at KS1 achieving a higher standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2.**
- WDCS is 60 percent disadvantaged children – those children did better than advantaged and disadvantaged children in the rest of the country. One reason for the success is the excellence in phonics due to **Read, Write, Inc.. Maths Mastery** is another supportive programme. **SFA (Success For All), IPC (International Primary Curriculum)** and the children's attitudes also help.
- **Key school objectives: 2 – to increase the percentage of pupils achieving higher standard in reading by the end of KS1.**
- **Key school objectives: 3 – to embed a culture of creativity through a rich and diverse curriculum (incl. 'Maker Spaces' in classrooms, 'Maker Mats' at home). Suggestions:** get students to brainstorm the kind of activities they would like to do on the Maker Mats.

- **Key school objectives: 4 – to increase the percentage of boys achieving GLD and GLD Exceeding by the end of reception.** In Year 1, there are far more boys than girls.
- Girls outperformed boys. The school uses Classroom Monitor, which breaks down student achievement.
- **Key school objectives: 5 – to achieve mastering level in the International Primary Curriculum accreditation.**

#### **FEDERATION UPDATE:**

- In terms of the **Hackney Learning Trust**, the services from the Local Authority are being reduced (as is happening across the country). We are a federation, but not an academy. Our whole Federation governing body meets twice a term. Darren is going to the next meeting. Legally a governing body can only have two parents. The parents aren't there to represent a single school, but all schools. Michelle Thomas is the head teacher who is represented (only one is allowed) and there's one teacher (from Shacklewell).
- Michelle Thomas will come to the next Parent Council meeting in March.

#### **BEHAVIOURAL POLICY:**

- **What policy is in place for teachers when they have particularly difficult children? Is there a standard approach for managing behaviour?** There is a policy, which has just been changed. There are new incentives, rewards and sanctions. It has raised the profile of behaviour and reduced the number of warnings children receive. It's called **Home Contact** and parents are always informed – those incidents are rare. Children at greater risk of exclusion receive support from Bilal Theodule, who is a behavioural specialist. The school gets advice from the **Reengagement Unit** at the **Hackney Learning Trust**. Mr Hewie thinks children at risk of exclusion need to be in school receiving extra support. Support staff work with most of those children to ensure the children can do as much as possible. Behaviour is a priority as there is a link between good behaviour, staff retention and good attainment. Incentives and standards are focused on learning and being ready for learning.

#### **DIGITAL LEARNING:**

- iPads are used mainly so children can create content, rather than consume content. The school teaches children to stay safe and they bring digital learning into all subjects, through teacher training to ensure teachers are versatile. Digital learning is inclusive and helps a range of children achieve. It increases leadership skills and confidence.
- Digital learning includes letting children coders in year six power drones and teach younger children to code.
- The school is helping the children to be digital citizens.
- Year 6 children use iPads in at least a lesson every day.
- Parents should choose secondary schools where there is a focus on digital learning to ensure their children do not lose the skills they have gained at Woodberry Down.
- iPads are a tool for learning across lessons. TV screens throughout the school show how digital learning happens at the school.
- **How can all teachers exemplify best practice in terms of explaining how children use technology?**
  - o Can we have a coding week?
  - o Or a morning where parents can see how children code in class or use digital technology?
  - o Can there be parents' evening demonstrations or videos? Most likely to be older children giving demonstrations.
  - o The school bulletin could add App of the week again.

**Any Other Business:**

- Years 1 to 6 are set according to their test results and level. The children are assessed and new groups are formed every 8 weeks.
- SFA (Success For All) is taught from year 2 to year 6 (it is the WDCS reading program). The children are taught in sets.
- Children should go up with students of their level each year, but if that doesn't happen parents should talk to Mr Hewie.
- Maths is only set in YEAR 2 and YEAR 6.
- MATHS MASTERY allows children to work at different levels. It includes suggestions for consolidation and for greater depth. Teachers set tasks according to each student's ability.
- The school website explains how students are set and an overview of the curriculum can be found here: <http://woodberrydown.hackney.sch.uk/provision/curriculum/curriculum-overview/>
- Teachers meet before the end of the academic year and discuss the level of each pupil, any medical needs and other relevant information to ensure each child's needs are met.

**Tasks:**

- Mr Hewie will get Mr Trahair and Miss Sawdon to design a leaflet to get parents to do more to support reading at home.
- Darren will go to one of the assemblies to talk about the Parent Council. Other parents can do the same.
- Parent Council parents without photos are to send these to Mr Hewie.
- Darren will write a short paper about where we are now, how we got here and where we want to be.
- The Parent Council needs to design a poster to call for nominations for Teacher of the Year etc.
- The Parent Council will create a flier to hand out to parents at assemblies, including requests for nominations for best teacher and for agenda items.
- The school will invite students to brainstorm the kind of activities they would like to do on the Maker Mats.
- Mr Hewie will get App of the week added to the school bulletin again.

**Date of next meeting: TBC (evening)**

**The next meeting will take place at 6.00pm.**