

Beaconhurst Parent/Teacher Association

Meeting held on 15th January 2008 at 7.15pm in the Dining Room, Beaconhurst School.

Present:	Annie Beckham	Chairperson
	Iain Kilpatrick	Headmaster
	Graham Scott	Treasurer
	Diane MacKenzie	Minute Secretary (late arrival)
	Uli Schlafli	Member
	Dawn Haughton	Teaching Staff – Senior School
	Mike Bray	Teaching Staff – Junior School
	Lorna Jackson	Teaching Staff - Nursery
	Kim Clingan	Member
	Karen Fletcher	Member
	Rachel Vevers	Member
Apologises:	Suzanne Teed	Member
	Pamela Knight	Member

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 30th October 2007

A show of hands demonstrated that most people had read from the website therefore no need to supply paper minutes from now on!

Amendments: No amendments.

Matters Arising: No matters arising from the previous minute.

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by Annie Beckham; Seconded by Rachel Vevers.

2. Headmaster's Report

- **Open Evening** on Tuesday 12th February 2008 - requested Swap Shop & PTA presence. Karen Fletcher and Kim Clingan offered to split duties for the evening.
- **J1 Parents Introductory Evening** on 7th February – Swap Shop presence greatly appreciated and IK would approach team direct.
- **School Trips** – Modern Languages/ Art trip to Paris from 15th to 18th February 2008 for S5/S6 parents. Meeting taking place this Thursday (17th Jan).
- **Hockey Trip to Canada** – Provisional details have been given out to pupils and parents giving outline details at this stage as hockey fixtures not yet finalised in Canada. Trip proposed during October 2008 half term break. Once more details known, Parents will be notified with more definite info. AB asked how many pupils would be able to go on this trip – IK felt that at this stage, school would react to demand once 2nd letter has gone out. AB asked what staff/ pupil ratio is for this kind of trip/age group and was informed 1:10 however IK felt sure at least 2 staff members would be accompanying the girls, perhaps 3.
- **Hockey** – IK and PE Dept had responded to concerns from some parents regarding hockey teams/matches/protocol etc and in consultation with parents a player's handbook has been issued to all senior pupils at a meeting held previous week. This includes a code of conduct, responsibilities of the captain and players, guide to effective play and warm up exercises and drills. AB confirmed that booklet was enormously helpful, would surely show great improvements in the running of Beaconhurst Hockey Teams and was definitely a move forward in terms of motivating the girls. AB felt the Thursday lunchtime hockey meeting was already proving a success and the school would receive positive feedback on this issue.
- **HMIe Report** – The school received a draft copy of the inspection report today, which makes for very good reading. The final version is due for publication on 11th March and will go to parents, staff and Governors. It will also be posted on the HMIe and school websites. Thanks to those parents who took part. IK stated that as the inspectors had attended 50 lessons, the children had really carried the day in their articulation and expression.
- **School Roll** - to all intents and purposes, school is now full with many classes having waiting lists and some lists now closed. IK asked PTA members to, where possible, communicate to parents – ESPECIALLY those parents who have younger siblings

not yet at Nursery, that registration forms MUST be completed to ensure places are offered. AB offered to set up a Class Link Parents meeting over the next couple of weeks to help communicate this issue.

3. Treasurer's Report

Graham Scott presented the financial statement and the balance is £3780 with monies to be paid in from bag-to-school of approx £285 and catering for the Mum's Night Out still to be paid.

4. Teacher's Report

Dawn gave a huge thank you to the PTA for the Christmas decorations donated from the Mum's Night Out and used by Morton House for the Christmas Dance. This event raised around £300 towards the Chernobyl charity fund.
No nursery or junior school report.

5. Mum's Christmas Night Out Review

Thoroughly enjoyed be those who attended. Although 75 tickets were sold, only around 34 turned up on the night and this made an atmosphere difficult to create and much food left over. However cheque for £600 to be handed over to Breakthrough Breast Cancer, made possible by the generous donations from parents. Breakthrough Breast Cancer is to be contacted to give talk to S3/4 girls during year group and to receive cheque. ACTION DIANE

Agreed to discuss next social event at February meeting and to ask CLP's for ideas.
ACTION AGENDA

6. Future/ On-going events

- **Christmas Wrapping Paper**– Rachel advised £1600 of wrapping paper had been ordered giving the PTA £400 profit. Very hard work with only three helpers to sort the orders. Would do it again but need more help. Thanks to Rachel on behalf of PTA.
- www.buy.at/beaconhustpta agreed only going to be good as a fund-raising venture if promoted. Suggestion to create business card for all parents to keep beside computer monitor and could be promoted at spring fair. AB offered to approach Suzanne Teed with a view to her taking this project on. ACTION ANNIE
- **Spring Fair – 11am 15th March 2008!** - Sub-committee volunteers met prior to Christmas and outline plan for the event was circulated and discussed. Agreed AB to email sub-committee. ACTION ANNIE
GS to provide float and account for monies. ACTION GRAHAM
Joss Bryson to be invite to play bag-pipes. ACTION ANNIE
Flyers to be create by S3 girls ACTION DIANE

7. AOCB

- **Award of school colours** – DMack had been asked by a couple of parents how school colours are awarded. IK advised they were awarded in recognition of excellence for Arts, Sport & Academic achievement. Further information is available in the 'Merit and Praise Policy' contained in the 'Aims and Core Policy' folder in the school office. IK will write piece for website. ACTION IAIN.
- **Games at University** – AB concerned about children walking to university for games unaccompanied by staff. IK confirmed escorted until transition and thereafter trusted cross road safely. IK and DH to consider PSHE programme input of 'stranger danger & keeping safe'. DMack suggested groups of three would be best practice to avoid abduction. ACTION IAIN & DAWN
- **Mobile phones on school trips** – IK noted his disappointment and concern that children were breaking school rule by taking mobile phones on school trips. This is a clear breach of trust and children risk severe consequences if caught. Parents are asked to support school policy and not condone this practice.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 26th February 2008 at 7.15pm in the Dining Room.

Diane MacKenzie