

Beaconhurst Parent/Teacher Association

Meeting held on 26th February 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
	Mike Bray	Teaching Staff
	Lorna Jackson	Teaching Staff
	Arlene Fletcher	Member
	Karen Fletcher	Member
	Rachel Vevers	Member
Apologies:	Suzanne Teed	Member
	Pamela Knight	Member
	Kim Clingan	Member

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 15th January 2008

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 – Many thanks to Karen Fletcher and Kim Clingan for PTA presence.
- **Publicity** – A number of articles relating to school have received coverage in the local press, including 'Potato Day', J6 Teacher's London Marathon challenge and Jodie Differ's fund-raising hair cut.
- **Proposed Future Development of School Site** – Originally the school site was to be developed in three phases – Phase 1 Games Hall & Dining Room; Phase 2 Classroom Block; Phase 3 Cameron Hall rebuild – however phases 1 & 2 were completed together in 2006 at a cost of £3.5 million with minimal financial impact for parents. Phase 3 is estimated to cost in the region of £2 million and while the need for the rebuild is clear, the Headmaster is concerned parents already pay significant fees without putting a levy on top. Phase 3 will therefore happen when Governors feel financial position of school is able to support the burden and meanwhile will remain prudent. Annie confirmed many parents would struggle to pay increased fees but also many who feel strongly the current Cameron Hall is an eyesore.
Action – Iain will advise Chair of Governors of parental concerns and School Development Plan to be brought to parents' attention by letter.
- **Junior School Projects** – Annie receiving many questions regarding difficulties some children experiencing undertaking school projects. Parents understand why they are being done but asking if more could be done in school. Iain explained the journey through course work begins in Junior School with 30% of the Standard Grade mark being made up of course work. It is not the outcome/presentation skills that are being sought at junior stage

but the development of investigation skills, independent study and writing in own words. 'Competitive parenting' is believed to be increasing stress levels. Iain felt many of these concerns could be addressed through dialogue/ booklet of information. Annie welcomed this and Diane asked if mind-mapping or similar skills could be shared with parents.

Agreed– Junior school information evenings have previously focused on Maths/ Modern Languages and evening could be held on this subject. **Iain will progress.**

- **30th Anniversary Ball Funds** – the remaining funds have been used to purchase the Honour Boards for 'Former Heads of School'; 'Head Boy & Girl'; 'Dux of School' and will be displayed in the Main entrance hall when re-decorated.

3. Treasurer's Report

Graham Scott presented the financial statement and the balance remains unchanged at approx £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 advised 10/11 years ago Work Experience Programme established with help from parents offering placements – increased demand from students has resulted in shortage of placements, particularly finance, architectural and occupational health.

Agreed – request for placements to be included in mailing. **Action Iain.**

Melanie Drake has requested help collecting/ returning costumes for Expressive Arts - 27/3 costumes need to be in school for lunchtime when 2 parents required to check out to children; 2/4 costumes need to be checked back-in and returned to Edinburgh by 3/4.

Agreed – Dawn to check if costumes can be collected previous evening. No nursery or junior school report.

Car Park – Concerns were discussed at Full Staff Meeting and all has been said before – top car park now a problem along with parking on double yellow lines at entrance. Permission for gates refused and barrier being considered.

Agreed – will be re-visited in mailing. **Action Iain.**

Paris Trip – Great success with staff enjoying as much as pupils! Behaviour commendable! No issues with mobiles following discussion with each parent.

Re-cycling – plastic milk bottles used in school are being re-cycled and sustainability being promoted following class visit to land-fill site. Great initiative!

5. Future/ On-going events

- www.buy.at/beaconhustpta - cheque received for £26! Rachel has offered to promote this and agreed Diane to change Administrator rights to Rachel and will look at 'credit card' sized publicity that could be kept beside computer for reference. **Action Diane & Rachel.**
- **Breakthrough Breast Cancer** – photograph of cheque handover to take place on 27th Feb at 2pm with PTA members and senior girls. Diane to send cheque. **Action Diane**
- **Spring Fair – 11am 15th March 2008!** – Outline plans circulated and out of 14 craft sellers contacted, 6 confirmed and 2 others possible. Annie has contacted 11 parents who previously indicated a willingness to help out and 6 are able to manage. Agreed CLP's to recruit 2 helpers to assist and names to go to Annie asap. **Action CLP's**

The 'Toy Store' has been given a make-over by Karen and Arlene and will be stocking new pocket money items. Signed football tops from Rangers & Celtic have been sourced by FES to cover the cost of purchasing the toys.

Attractions will include children's stalls; creative corner, including egg decorating competition (Rachel); food service (Diane); BBQ (Dawn to speak to Ken re profit for Hockey Tour); cake & candy; raffle; swing band (12.15pm – 1pm); DVD & Books (Uli); Bagpiper (Joss); 'Beat the goalie' (Robin); Pamper parlour (Joyce & S3 girls); senior pupils enterprise stalls (Iain McKenna); House Group (Sam); Chernobyl (Dawn).

Donations letter to be prepared by 3rd March (Annie) and go in school bag w/e 7th March for items to be handed in week of 10th March.

First Aiders – David Beckham, Robin MacKenzie.

Fire Wardens – to be appointed.

Sub-committee meeting 11th March at 2.30pm.

- **Future fund-raising** – to be considered at next meeting 29/4/08.

6. AOCB

- Karen received complaints from many parents about the appearance of the Cameron Hall (refer to Headmaster's Report above) and Iain will investigate removing black plastic and creosoting instead. **Action Iain.**
- Karen asked whether adequate food provided for pupils on lunch duty – Iain stated the kitchen now has contingency arrangements should there be insufficient portions available.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 29th April 2008 at 7.15pm in the Dining Room.

Diane MacKenzie – 12th March 2008