

Minutes of Parents in Partnership Meeting
Community Room, Sunnymede Junior School
Tuesday 3rd February 2015

	Name	Role	Class
Present:	Ronnie Branch	Headteacher	
	Michelle Galley	Parent representative	6L
	Kate Smith	Parent representative	5K
	Sharon Wornham	Parent representative	6H

1. Welcome and apologies

Mrs Branch opened the meeting; apologies were received from Kerry Vickers, Sheila Gibson, Lisa Zeffie, Leah Rogers, Jacki Whaplington, and Jacqui Dignum. Suzanne Kelly, Lucy Moffat, Sam Russell and Ellie Hill did not attend. Mrs Branch introduced Gail Oliver as her new PA.

As there were so few members in attendance it was agreed that the meeting would be informal and that Mrs Branch would feedback on a couple of items previously raised. Other items on the agenda will be deferred to the next meeting.

2. Crucial Crew

Following concerns raised over the content of some of the material used at Crucial Crew, Mrs Branch and another Headteacher attended a preview session of the "Only Cowards Carry Knives" video with Lisa Hopcroft (Basildon Council) and a trainer from the charity. Mrs Branch felt that some of the content was inappropriate and that as a parent she would want to have the option to choose whether her child saw it or not. The video is very well made but it may be too graphic and more appropriate for pupils in Year 7 or Year 8 especially the knife content. Crucial Crew have therefore arranged for Sunnymede and Buttsbury to attend the event but to avoid watching the video. They will still have a presentation which will include some still photographs informing pupils of the law around weapons and how to protect themselves. It was agreed that they will show a still image of a gravestone at the end of the presentation. Only Cowards Carry Knives were very accommodating and understood our reluctance.

Parents agreed that this was a good compromise and that they would be happy for the children to attend.

Mrs Branch said that this was a great example of how PIP works as it empowers Headteachers to approach and question external agencies.

3. Mons Avenue – Health and Safety

The need for a barrier directly outside the Mons Avenue entrance/exit was raised at a previous meeting. Mrs Farrow contacted the local council before she retired and as a result a counsellor came to view and discuss our concerns. Mrs Oliver reported that he agreed in principle that a barrier should be in place and that the proposal would be made at the next committee meeting. Providing the committee agree then a surveyor will come to view the site and his report would then be sent forward for the budget to be agreed. It may be a long process but should, hopefully, have a positive outcome for the safety of the children.

4. PIP Group email address

It was suggested that a separate email account could be created for PIP similar to the one used by the PTA. It would enable parents to contact PIP members with questions to be raised at the meetings. Mrs Branch agreed that this is a good idea but said that how it was used would need to be carefully considered and some clear protocols would need to be agreed. It was agreed that further discussion and

consideration should be given to this proposal and it would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

5. Any other business

A question was asked about whether we still have Peer Mediators. Mrs Branch said that we do but that she will speak to Miss King about promoting them to the children.

A question was asked about the decision not to broadcast school closure due to bad weather on the local radio. Mrs Branch advised that this decision was taken by the local radio stations not by schools or the local authority so was outside of our control.

A question was asked about school inset dates and holiday dates. Some parents have expressed their frustration that schools do not have the same inset and holiday dates; in particular we have different dates to the Billericay School. Mrs Branch explained that inset dates are arranged in accordance with schools professional development and training requirements. Quite often external consultants or trainers are booked so dates are dependent on availability. We liaise with the infant school to ensure that we share the same dates as many of our families have children at both schools. One of the dates set is used by all Billericay schools to share training and workshops together. We also need to have at least one inset day at the start of the new academic year. Mrs Branch agreed that she would look at the Billericay School dates and where possible may be able to set the same dates, though this may not be possible as primary and secondary schools have different priorities.

6. Agree date and agenda for next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 16th April at 9 a.m.

In preparation for the next meeting, Mrs Branch asked if the PIP group could give some thought to the monthly newsletter that is sent out. Are parents happy with the content? Are there things they would like to be included that are not currently included in the content? Parents will be emailed and asked to think about this too and let PIP representatives know their thoughts. Suggestions will be discussed within the group at the next meeting.

