

St Joseph's School Association

A Registered Charity

Charity No 295506

Chair: Liz Weatherhogg

Vice Chair: Tracy McCarthy

Treasurer: Monica Stoker

Secretary: Kathryn Anderson



St Joseph's Catholic School
Great Hadham Road
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire CM23 2NL

Tel: (01279) 652576
Fax: (01279) 466519

Email: stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 15th September 2015

Attendees:

Liz Weatherhogg	Vicki Carroll
Tracy McCarthy	Adele Costa Correa
Monica Stoker	Leigh Castle
Kathryn Anderson	Fiona Steele
Alistair Robertson	Laetitia Lynch
Tanya McConn	Erika Stafarik
Ciara Nicholson	Richard St Mart
Charlotte Saunders	

Apologies:

Natalie Sullivan	Ali Crockett
Peter Coldwell	Lisa O'Connor
Rachel Kelly	Claire McElhinney

Opening Prayer – Ciara Nicholson

Introductions – Liz welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the School Association.

We are a fundraising body and organise fun, family events that bring the community of St Joseph's together. We hold regular meetings that all parents of the school are welcome to attend and the elected committee decide and vote on how the money is spent. The projects we fund for the school are things that the children would otherwise not have.

Treasurer's Report – Monica Stoker

We have several projects that funding has already been for agreed at our last funding meeting. Monica gave a brief overview of the money we raised last year which was just over £16,000. We briefly discussed the summer disco which was a great success and raised approximately £1,200. Monica also shared a letter from GOSH thanking us for our marathon fundraising.

Progress of KS2 Playground Equipment – £12,000 has been set aside to buy equipment.

Some research has been done into the playground equipment but we feel that we really need a better understanding from children and staff as to what would be of most benefit. We have had difficulty establishing where is the best place for equipment to go due to issues with space, and have explored different areas including the suggestion of utilising the field or the space outside Oak Classroom. Previous quotes have been too expensive but we are conscious that we need to move forward with this project.

Tanya has previously contacted 2 companies and she will now get them to come to the school to assess the site.

100 Club – Is now running.

It has been well promoted but the uptake so far is a total of 36 numbers purchased. We have had to reduce the prize fund to reflect this but even so it is currently running it at a loss. Lisa reports that we need 50 numbers purchased to break even and is questioning whether it is viable to proceed.

The general feeling from people at the meeting is that they are intending to buy a number but have not got around to it as yet; the start of a new school year being a busy time!

We decided therefore that as so much work has already been put into setting it up we should continue running this until Christmas and review it again in January.

Thanks to Lisa and Natalie for their time and efforts!

School Disco – Provisional date of Friday 16th October.

We discussed the disco format again thoroughly and went through the pros and cons of different ways of running the event. It was decided that it will become confusing to change the format and ticket prices again and therefore for this disco we will continue with splitting up the ages and having a set ticket price.

Times will be: Foundation & KS1 5-6pm / KS2 6:15 – 7:45pm
Ticket price: £5 to include drink, treat and something else!

Tracy needs to check date with Spencer.
Tracy agreed to sort out drinks and treats.

Christmas Event – We need ideas!

It was felt that it would be nice to do something for Christmas! It has been a large fundraiser the last two years and families have feedback that they enjoy the evening.

Ali has kindly offered to be involved in organising the event but would like a partner to split the workload, otherwise the event would have to be scaled down from previous years. Laetitia kindly volunteered to help in some way, but has not been to a Christmas event yet!

We need some new ideas, as well as the favourites such as the grotto, chocolate tombola and chuck-a-turkey!

Liz to discuss a possible date with Ali.

Officer Positions – Liz discussed the forthcoming election of committee members.

At the AGM in November we will elect a new committee as always. However this year the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will become vacant as Liz, Tracy, Monica and Kathryn would all like to step down and handover to a new team. This needs to be advertised to give parents the chance to think about putting themselves forward.

Kathryn to advertise this asap.

AGM – Date set for Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 3:30pm

In response to comments from parents that evening meetings aren't easy to attend it was suggested that we hold the AGM straight after school pick up in the hope that parents will be able to stay on. Ciara said she would try and sort a way of having the children supervised/entertained. We agreed that the meeting did not have to be too long however we need to have at least 26 people attending to make it valid (as we have 13 committee members, we need to have at least the same number of non-committee members).

This will need to be advertised nearer the time.

Cake Bake – Date agreed for Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 3:30pm

AOB

A discussion ensued earlier in the evening regarding feedback from parents about the School Association in general. There is a feeling from some parents that they would like the School Association to be more than just a fundraising body and to have better communication between the school and parents. There is a conception that School Association meetings are a chance to speak to teachers when in reality this is not the case. Liz clearly explained that the School Association as it runs currently is a fundraising organisation and that if parents want it to be something different then they need to come forward and help to establish another group.

We understand that parents struggle to attend meetings in the evening and as such have scheduled the AGM for after school pick up and Liz will also try to run a separate morning meeting soon to go over the points that have been discussed at this meeting.

It was felt that the introduction of Year Reps would help communication between school and parents. Ciara said that she would advertise this and try to recruit a rep for every school year.

Refugee Crisis – Vicki asked whether the school could hold a ‘quick’ fundraiser (such as a non-uniform day) to help Cafod with the refugee crisis. Ciara agreed to let the Chaplaincy Team to decide what they would like to do.

Barn Dance – Adele has been researching barn dances. She suggested making it multi-cultural. She has spoken to another school that have recently held one which was very successful and profitable. They had a hot buffet and a pay bar. Everyone agreed it was a great idea.

Adele agreed to speak to the band to find out dates.

Ciara to speak to Nicky our cook to see if she would be able to do food.

Date of Next Meeting – TBC

(AGM as above)

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED.