**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**PARENT & CARER COUNCIL AGENDA**

**Monday 4th March 2019**

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

1. Timothy 4:4-5
2. **Welcome, prayer & introductions**- present Greg Farrell (Y1 & Y2 parent) Chinyereugo Umemneku (N & Y2 parent) Craig Dallison (Y1 parent and Foundation Governor) Kate Massey (Headteacher)
3. **Apologies**- Christine Halfpenny (Rec & Y3 parent) Sarah McCrea (Y1 parent) Camilla Stewart (Y3 parent) Helen Miller (Y4 parent and Foundation Governor)
4. **Matters arising from previous meeting**-

**Action-** CH to draft a communication to go to parents carers re. this meeting and routes of communication

**Action-** CH to set up e-mail address

**Notes and minutes from previous meeting were noted as correct.**

**Parent Council Policy** shared with parents via the school website in due course. The desire to have additional representatives was agreed, and that policy should describe process as “self-nominated to capacity”. Once capacity has been reached changes to representatives could be done through discussion or through vote (if multiple parties expressed a desire to join at the same time). **Action KM** to share policy

1. **Nomination of Chair**- KM (but to be organised on a rolling basis)
2. **Nomination of secretary**- GF (but to be organised on a rolling basis)
3. **NEAT consultation**- KM shared the options analysis piece with group, a review by the parent council was deemed to be useful – however the value of communicating this piece is being quickly eroded, so parent council members are encouraged to look at/feed back ASAP **Action All**

There was some discussion about the density of the piece, and to whether it constituted information overload (feedback from Gosforth Schools Trust). It was noted by CU that the analysis would not be shared by all parents but following some debate it was agreed the more infomation that is shared the better and that filtering may be done with the best of intentions, but that it risks causing barriers to trust if parents questioned the motives for filtering.

It was agreed that the communication should include definition around the process (i.e. to include next steps from Governors)

**Action Governors to feedback to FGB re.** Communication from Governors re. NEAT felt one sided and there was a concern about the lack of information provided about alternative options and the pros/cons of each

**Action Chair of Govs to circulate alternative options (suggest to run past Parent Council)**

**Govs to feedback to FGB** Parents would like staff views of NEAT consultation-

1. **Communication between Parents & Parent Council**- none received
2. **Current concerns and what is working well**- It was requested that parents were given as much notice of payments as possible. ParentMail forms & payments set up the month in advance would be helpful so that the number of sudden requests could be reduced.
3. **AOB**- KM raised a proposal by Sarah Hawkins to seek a regular voluntary contributions of £15-£20 per half term per family or child.

There was some discussion by group about the justification for this, and how this interactive with the current proposals around NEAT. The scale of operation at school does create an ongoing budgetary challenge, this has been described in detail through the consultation process. As such this would be a good time for any such proposal as parents are aware of our situation. This model has been adopted before with a £5 contribution sought, but not been asked for in recent years.

It was agreed that this would be a reasonable thing provided certain conditions could be met, that

1. It was made that the contribution was voluntary,
2. It was made clear to parents what the contribution would fund,
3. That the value was relatively low, and
4. That this revue stream would be protected (i.e. ring fenced) for curriculum enhancement

It is acknowledged that not everyone will be able to contribute. To ensure ring fencing a specific item in budget will need to be identified.

It was suggested that other potential income steams should be investigated: to include Churches, and to ask parents for connections to businesses. CD to feedback to Governors, we need wider explanation to add to Newsletter CD to source/write **Action CD**

1. **Date of next meeting** – 1.4.19, 11:00am (CU will write Agenda & circulate in advance) CH to act as secretary for next meeting

**“Love to learn, learn to love”**

**Colossians 3:23-24**