

Minutes of FEPIS Meeting
Held at East Preston Infant School
On Thursday 15th September 2016

Meeting opened at 9.30am

The meeting was chaired by Claire Woods - FEPIS

Minutes completed by Megan Howdle

1. Welcome Introductions

Conducted by Claire Woods. Welcome to new members of the committee – Kate McCarthy has taken on the position of Treasurer and Megan Howdle has taken the position of Secretary.

2. Apologies received from Charlotte Gray, Sue Gearing and Michelle Tibbs

Meeting attended by Claire Woods (Chair), Claire New, Andrea Chapman, Tracey McRae (Co Chair), Kate McCarthy (Treasurer), Megan Howdle (Secretary), Lisa Peters, Helen McNeish, Daioni Shuter, Nadia Weston, Michelle Rankin, Lucy Owens (Deputy) and Rachel Keys.

3. Summer Fete Feedback, profit

Tea tent issues – more space is needed. The location was good but there was an issue with access to water. Next year access to the Puffins classroom (new pod) could alleviate water issues or borrowing the water butt – Helen McNeish advised that she was happy to organise this. Unfortunately the DJ let us down and didn't turn up, a replacement sound system was quickly found. Feedback indicated that a lot of money could be saved if we borrow speakers from the Junior and Infant schools and organise our own music.

The selfie stall wasn't popular at all, possibly due to the Year 6 children working on their own stalls – they were probably the target market.

The profit from the Fete was split 4/7 to the Junior's and 3/7 to the Infant's – meaning the Infant school profit was £1200.

4. Leaver's Disco Feedback, profit

There was no entertainer this year, instead we went back to a previously successful school disco. Feedback on photos – the taking of them was chaotic, especially the queuing. Discussion centred around the attempted organisation of the children by parents and volunteers, and it was decided

that the less organisation the better, as when the children were left to organise themselves, there was no problem.

The profit from the leaver's disco as well as the other disco was £482.38

Cakes, glowsticks and candyfloss all sold very well.

5. 'Tea and Tissues' feedback

There were three reception mums present at the meeting who commented that it was a lovely event. One mum said that she felt quite isolated, as parents tended to sit in friendship groups and she didn't yet know anybody. Discussion was had around having something to identify the class that the children were in, to help with introductions between parents. One suggestion was having name tags with pre-printed class names on, in which the parents write they were the 'Mum of Jack or 'Dad of Rose' on it.

It was great having the Head and Deputy there meeting parents.

There was no interest in the second hand uniform on display.

A suggestion was made to have a wine evening in July so that parents have met and can get together over the summer.

6. Accounts

There are a few accounts still to be paid out, however there is £5317.59 in the account. There was discussion from the Head about cheques being paid out without receipts. It was agreed that in future, cheques will not be paid out unless a receipt is presented. Claire Woods will talk to FEPS about the importance of keeping receipts for Summer and Christmas fairs.

7. Fundraising ideas

Update on the Natural Habitat Wildlife Pond – Megan Howdle informed the meeting that unfortunately we were unsuccessful with the application for a grant from Tesco Bags of Help, however, the criteria have changed and Megan will reapply.

Claire Woods explained that the way the PTA funds are expended is that the school makes suggestions and the PTA discuss and agree to contribute. The staff have decided that a pond would be a good idea and that it would supplement the forest school.

There was a lot of discussion about spending the PTA funds on resources. A new play trail is needed, however there will be extensive groundwork with the school building works so no work can be done until then. Next year funds will be needed for the playtrail. The forest school will remain the same when the school building work is undertaken.

Resources are OK at the moment as the school is in the third year of their topic cycle. The curriculum will change next year so resources will be needed for the new topics then.

The general consensus was that FEPIS will put funding towards the pond. With that go ahead Claire New indicated that she will let the landscaper know that he can start planning the pond. It won't be until January that the work will start, which will give the PTA more opportunity to raise more funds.

It was agreed that FEPIS will contribute £5,000 to the pond project.

Megan Howdle will continue to look for and apply for grants.

It was suggested that a 'funding thermometer' would be a great way to let parents know where their fundraising contributions were going.

The next newsletter will have a focus on fundraising.

8. Phil the Bag

Dates were decided for the upcoming school year:

8 November; 7 March; and 13 June. These dates are all the 2nd Tuesday after half term.

Claire Woods will ring Phil the Bag and book those dates in.

Megan Howdle mentioned that the competition between classes was fun and it was agreed that this would be done again, using a visual estimation, rather than weighing all the bags.

When the dates are confirmed, notification will be placed on the noticeboard, in the newsletter and on posters (double laminated) to be posted around the school.

9. Upcoming events

Wizards and witches disco to be held on Thursday 20th October.

Discussion was had about an Autumn Treasure Hunt. Ideas given were a family orienteering or family treasure hunt around the village, where autumn leaves in shop windows have letters that make a word.

Suggestions were made of a Fashion Show, Trivia evening, Wine evening, pamper evening, family disco?

The Christmas Fair date has not yet been confirmed with the Junior School.

10. AOB

Nil

11. The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 13th October, 2016 at 9am**