

BGS PA Minutes of Meeting 14/06/18

Present : Jim Tullie, Claire Hanafin, Andrew Rattle, Dannielle Armour, Rebecca Poulsen, Lesley Griffith, Jan Tullie, Chris Silberberg, Amanda Ashby, Helen Handy, Kevin Huby, Shabana Bashir, Simon Hinchliffe.

Hi Jim

Apologies :

Tracy Lord, Liz Ford, Vanessa McCormac, Diane Anderson, Tracey Deacon, Vivienne Cogan, Tony Pickles.

Welcome & Apologies

Jim Tullie (Chair) opened the meeting welcoming present and asking for any apologies to be recorded.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (15/03/18)

The minutes had been issued after the last meeting and a copy was available at the meeting. Proposed Amanda Ashby; Seconded Chris Silberberg.

Spring Fair Financial Review

Kevin presented draft financial results from the Spring Fair. Copy attached to the minutes for reference. Those in attendance discussed the various ups and downs. Notable : the outdoor attractions, normally a planned loss maker, made a great contribution – the assault course was well used. The implementation of tickets for rides rather than cash collected at each attraction - which this year moved to one ticket booth - worked well and reduced the level of volunteer resource. The unlimited wrist bands (new initiative this year) was regarded as a winner (£380 raised in sales of these at £10 a band). Gate money was up but program monies down – maybe worth a review for the future, also checking all advertisers have been invoiced. Noted that 2nd Hand Uniform sales were not included but worth recording that £3300 was taken in uniform sales on the day. Overall we can record that as well as a great day with some good music the net financial outcome supported the effort made. Jim thanked everyone present or not for all their contribution to the day and there is in excess of £30,000 in the bank for us to spend for the benefit of the students.

General Feedback – Spring Fair

Amanda raised a concern that there was disconnect between school and PA this year and this had made the planning and implementation unnecessarily difficult and stressful. A suggestion was made that the school run the SF and PA support. Simon was aware of the strains in the run up and advised us that the school had appointed a new Bursar and an Events Manager and a Director of External Relationships and was now very confident that with people in place future events would have more support and this will improve the situation.

There was a discussion that a staff member should be present at the meetings. Jim & Claire had previously identified that the number of staff (who are also

parents) attending the PA had reduced. "Staff parents" attending helps with links into school.

6th Formers undertake an EPQ and the suggestion was made that being involved in the planning and implementation of such as the Spring Fair could be a very useful EPQ – for the student and the PA and School. This is an area to follow up in the new school year.

Chilly Bottle Update

Jim had received a report from the students involved in the project which was read out. All in agreement this was a worth while project. The report is attached for reference.

Transition day 2nd July

Jim discussed that we are in the planning stage for the next transition day on 2nd July. This is the day that students coming into senior school (either CH or external) have a fun day of activities, meet their new class mates and teachers and parents are invited into school in the afternoon to meet members of the PSA and other parents and we run a second hand uniform sale.

We have "ample" second hand uniform stock! Amanda was happy that we use her clothing rails. We can keep & use them on long term loan basis. This is not a gift to the PA, its long term loan and if she requires them back for anything they are hers. Thank you Amanda. We need volunteers for the afternoon 2 till 5 to meet and greet and support the sale etc. The sale starts at around 3:15 for new parents and 4pm to 5pm for existing parents.

Two new pop up changing rooms have been bought this month to assist with trying on.

Simon confirmed that Perry's are the new uniform supplier for the next 12 months – it is September 19 when the new supplier takes over the contract.

Coffee Morning 29th June 18

Claire confirmed the next coffee morning was 9 to 10:30am 29/6 in the Pavilion. Sarah Flaherty and Debbie Chalashika are coming to talk about Careers Education and a new initiative that will be introduced in September. All Parents welcome to come along.

Headmaster End of Year update

Simon thanked us for being invited along to provide an update and also take any questions.

Starting with fees – Simon confirmed that BGS fees had increased by 1.7% but provided us with details of fees at local schools – BGS was the lowest increase and the lowest annual fee and the Governors and SLT were focused on financial discipline as all aware that the fees we pay have to be earned and the Governors appreciate this. Discussion was had around affordability; assisted places; why

there was no fee assistance with Clock House places; budgeting; and the overall need to continue to “grow the pot” of reserves the school has to allow for future investment in equipment and facilities.

The Glade was mentioned and prompted a discussion about projects funded by the PA and the facility then being used in the way it was proposed and also on going maintenance by the school budget .

The sector has shrunk by 7% but in contrast there has been a year on year increase in interest in BGS for the past 3 years.

BGS results were still excellent not just in academic qualifications but awards for other interests - debating society and rugby were 2 that were mentioned.

Mr D’Arcy leaving to become the Head at St Beads was mentioned in the context of communication – concern that the information came to light via a tweet and that the students were finding out this way and updating the parents. Also relating to communication was emailing a member of staff and not receiving a reply only to find out a good while later that the staff member was off absent due to illness and that as email was a preferred communication method, absent staff should have their email set to issue an automatic reply so that parents know to contact someone else for a response. Simon will look into how such as Mr D’Arcy news is communicated and emails etc. to improve.

The school have plans in the final phases of approval for improvements to the sports facilities. To give an idea of the scale, the cost of these works is several million and final decisions are being made on the 22 June. Once everything is agreed there will be a communication from the school detailing the changes and the impact (as the Autumn Term sports facilities / program may be disrupted).

AOB

Jim presented Chris Silberberg with a present from the PA in recognition of the many years and hundreds of hours of support provided to the school.

Date of Next Meeting (first of the 2018/2019 School Year)

Thursday 20th September 7:30 pm