

Friends of Springfield School

Meeting minutes – Thursday 1st February 2024 (12-1pm)

Present: Kim Cepeda Wilson, Laura Armitage, Karin Stringer, Lorraine Standring, Cath Fearn, Kate Bentley, Helen Knight, Siobhan Murphy (MC Construction)

Apologies: Lynn Stubbs, Becca Price, Lindsey O’Connell, Emma Goodwin, Debbie Thelwell, Wendy Barnes, Mr Protheroe – Rotary Club, Joe Lusher – Duke of Gloucester, Drew Scarle, Carolyn Fearn

HK opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2023.

Finances

We have filled the Treasurer position within the group – thank you to Cath Fearn, Aunty to one of our primary students who runs a local business which includes managing all of the accounts and bookkeeping. We look forward to your experience on the team!

The **current bank balance stands at £18,668.35** with the cash from the Festive Fair still to be paid in to the bank.

We have also received some very kind donations from the family of student, Jack Astill that will show up in the next statement and proceeds from the School Lottery and easyfundraising should also show on our next statement, taking us close to £20,000.

We have used some funds recently to pay for branded t-shirts for the school choir and following a donation from HW Coates, we were able to fund a voice app for one of our students who has started to communicate using the app at home and at school.

Group purpose

These recent achievements sparked a conversation about what the purpose of the group should be going forward. With the recent changes in committee membership, it seemed like a good time to **agree/reset the aims of the group**.

It was agreed by all present that **we would like to fund a higher number of smaller projects**, rather than fewer large-scale projects. We feel that this is the best way for the group to make an impact on our students, staff and school.

An example of this would be to fund a number of spare school PE kits for students to wear when taking part in external sports activities. Siobhan at MC Construction has kindly offered to fund part of the kit alongside FoS - **ACTION: HK/KCW/SM to investigate**

We will still keep the development of the playground/pagoda on our agenda and will assess where we are up to as the building of the extension progresses.

A need has also been identified for some wheelchair accessible sensory planters in the main playground which we are also investigating - **ACTION: HK/KCW/SM to investigate**

Festive Fair

Thank you to all staff, students and committee members for such a successful event. We reviewed what went well and what could be improved and took notes for the 2024 Christmas event.

We agreed that the date for this year's event would be Thursday 5th December - **ACTION: HK to speak to Winterley Brass Band to book in advance**

Calendar of events

Events coming up include:

- **Spring Raffle** – thank you to Siobhan at MC Construction who has offered some excellent prizes including Afternoon Tea for two at a local hotel and a family Zoo visit/pass - **ACTION: HK to organise raffle with group members and liaise with SM on prizes**
- **Easter** – MC Construction have also very kindly offered to donate easter eggs and sensory gifts for those who don't eat chocolate at both our Crewe and Wilmslow sites - **ACTION: SM/KCW/HK to liaise**
- **Summer Fair** – to be discussed in next meeting

Suggestions Box/Online Form/Student Council

After agreeing that as a group we would like to fund a higher number of smaller projects, we also agreed that the best way to understand the things that will really make an impact on students/staff/school is to provide a channel for staff and students to make suggestions and requests to the FoS Group. At each meeting, the group will review the ideas that have been submitted over the past month - **ACTION: HK to create and distribute online suggestion form to staff and to liaise with KCW on attending Student Council to set up a process for students to make suggestions**

Logo

HK suggested changing the FoS logo to match the new school logo – **ACTION: LA to send image so we can recreate a FoS version**

New ideas

KB made a number of excellent suggestions that will be added to the ideas to review at the next meeting – **ACTION: HK to add to ideas/requests form**

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th March at 12pm

AOB

We have an opportunity to run a charity stall at Smallwood Vintage Rally in May this year which could be a great fundraising opportunity – **ACTION: LS & HK to liaise with Smallwood Committee**

If anyone has any questions or feedback, please contact Helen Knight, FoS Chairperson on 07894 786239 or helen.knight@springfield.cheshire.sch.uk