

Culham European School Parents Association

Final Minutes CESPA 4th December 2006 Dining Hall Annexe, 8.00pm

Present:: Astrid Nielsen-Schuurmans (ANS), Kathy Rushton (KR), Nathalie Hamill (NH), Richard Anstis (RA), Marga Lijzenga-Schutte (ML-S), Silke Zahrir (SZ), Puk Lykke-Moller (PL-K), Cecile Deer (CD), Paul Reast (PR), Jutta Weber (JW), Ute Schmidt-Rohr (US-R), Silke Ewald-Geppert (SE-W), Genevieve Ramirez (GR), Carol Ghadimi (CG) Rui Marcal (RM), Barbara Richards (BR)

New member: Barbara Richards was introduced by AN-S, to be co-opted on to the committee as Joint English Primary Rep. A show of hands confirmed her appointment – welcome!

1. Apologies for absence:

Carin Hoogendam (CH), Jan Duesing (JD), Karin van Vrede (KvV), Gabi Tait (GT),

2. Approval of Agenda: Approved

3. Matters Arising from 07.11.06 Committee meeting:

5. Post and Publicity - AN-S sent another letter to the Herald papers to correct 2.11.06 articles

7. Tasks – Christmas tree in hand for assembly in Canteen in December by GT/SZ

10. Internal Communications - CD set up Mailing group and sent instructions to members how to join

13. AOB – RA alerted school to remove personal names and details from school website (in school handbook)

13. AOB – leaving gift in hand for caretaker John

4. Post and Publicity:

AN-S sent another letter to the Herald papers to correct 2.11.06 articles

5. Dates from last committee meeting:

Tues 7	CESPA committee meeting
Thurs 9	S1 class council (16:00 hrs) French Film Club – La Guerre des Boutons
Fri 10	S1-6: November reports distributed
Mon 13	Information session about S7 (16:00 hrs)
Wed 15-Fri 17	Teaching Committees, Brussels
Sat 18	Flea Market (10.00-14.00)
Tues 21	S1 Parents' evening Secondary Music Recital (2), Chapel (4.00-4.45)
Wed 22	European Coffee Morning hosted by English
Thu 23	Teachers Meeting with Mr Ryan, 4.00pm
Thu 23	Futures meeting drama studio
Fri 24	Admin Board Meeting
Mon 27	S2 Parents' evening
Wed 29	Inspectors meeting with DS4/5 parents on hist, geog, economics
Weds 29	S3 Parents' evening
Thu 30	Futures meeting Drama studio

December:

Mon 4	CESPA committee meeting
Mon 4	Meeting for S5 pupils about exams and choices for S6+7
Mon 4	No school for S6
Tues 5-Fri 15	S6 exams
Tues 5	No school for S5
Weds 6-Tues 12	S5 exams
Tues 12- Weds 13	CAF
Thurs 14	French Film Club – La Mouette et le Chat

Wed 20	European Coffee Morning hosted by Spanish
Thurs 21-Fri 5	Holiday
January:	
Wed 10	European coffee morning hosted by Germans
Thurs 11	Futures Meeting
Thurs 11	S5 Class Councils (16:00 hrs)
Fri 12	S5 reports distributed
Fri 12	Admin Board
Mon 15	No school for S7
Tues 16	S1 Class Councils
Tues 16-Fri 26	S7 exams
Thurs 18	S1 reports distributed
Thurs 18	S2+3 Class Councils (16:00 hrs)
Mon 22	S2+3 reports distributed
Mon 22	S4+6 Class Councils (16:00 hrs)
Weds 24	S4+6 reports distributed
Thurs 25	Meeting for S5 Parents about options (18:00 – 19:00 hrs)
Thurs 25	S5 Parents evening (19:00 hrs)
Mon 29	Meeting for S3 pupils about choices for S4-7 (15:00 hrs)
Tues 30-Wed 31	Board of Governors
Weds 31	S4 Parents evening
February:	
Thurs 1	Deadline for S5 options for S6+7
?	Administrative Board
Tues 6	S6 parents' evening
Weds 7	S7 reports distributed
Thurs 8	Health Committee
Mon 12 – Fri 16	H O L I D A Y
March:	
Mon 5	Primary Conseil

6. Treasury:

1. The final sum raised by the Flea Market is now £1424.81
2. Independent Thinking Invoice – US-R queried this invoice for the Round Table Debate. AN-S to make enquiries. **ACTION AN-S**
3. Primary Resource Centre: The centre has requested a grant for a new printer, the old CESPA-funded one is irreparable. The school technician will install a new one for £100. This printer is also used by the parent Lost Property co-ordinators.
4. Petty Cash: A small amount of petty cash will be locked in the Primary Resource centre to be used by the volunteers there for general administration costs. Should a member of the CESPA committee or a parent with a CESPA matter need very small cash they may also make use of this, bringing their receipts to Martina Kaupp-Roberts in the Primary Resource centre 2.50 – 3.35 on Tuesday afternoons.
5. French Secondary Play: US-R discussed further with Pierre Garcia. The costs for this play will now reduce to approximately £750 as new sound equipment (bought by CESPA) can be used. The grant is more of a loan as Mr Garcia hopes to charge the audience. The committee wished him well with his project and were happy to loan him the money, not all of which has to be repaid.
6. French Primary Puppet Show: Awaiting more information
7. Dejeuner Francais/Deutsche Mittagspause: Marie Jose Moor, the organiser, requested £30 for Christmas. This was agreed, Marie Jose will apply with a grant application.
8. Primary 2 and FP1 'Galette' Snack: Julie Marchais asked for £165 to organise this January event for these classes, a French tradition which CESPA has always supported. The grant was approved.
9. .Spending Strategy: US-R suggested that this year's committee keep as a reserve £10,000. A discussion followed about how much of a 'buffer' the parents committee needs in the event of professional help or extra travel to do with the future of the school

7. Playground:

A-NS who is on the Primary Conseil explained that the school management is discussing

improvement of the Primary Playground, as physical education is one of its main concerns this school year. Most of the school budget this year will be spent replacing an unsafe climbing frame in the Primary Playground P3-5, so help from CESPA with new expenditure on playground equipment is needed. RA explained that the school only has money for maintenance or the making-safe of existing equipment.

It was agreed that if a suitable project were to come up in the Playground then CESPA would consider paying for this. AN-S continues to meet with school management to discuss playground requirements, she will keep the committee informed. RA prefers the idea of CESPA funding particular projects, rather than setting a budget for unspecified projects. A particular project at the moment may be the repainting of games (snakes and ladders and others) on the playground. AN-S to discuss further with Primary staff.

ACTION ANS

Paul Reast suggested improving the appearance of the playground by renewing some of the murals. He will look into possibilities of organizing some art projects with the Primary children.

ACTION PR

8. Internal Communications:

Yahoo Mailing Group: CD has made a minor change to the CESPA committee members discussion mailing group, so that members now reply to an individual by default and not to the whole group by default. CD will also check again why some attachments have been impossible for some members to open.

ACTION CD

Commercial Activities within the ES: CD mentioned the need to restrict CESPA's email network (CESPA reps – Class reps – Parents) to school and CESPA matters only. Sometimes parents want to use the network for other matters, commercial or otherwise. AN-S expressed the views of the committee in objecting to using the CESPA mailing list for any commercial purposes.

9. ECA:

RA brought up the matter of the ECA, and what a continually excellent job Hanne Starling is doing of running this. He voiced the feelings of the committee in thanking her for all her hard work, and thanking Martina Kaupp-Roberts for doing the accounts. The ECA account continues to thrive through Hanne's careful management, providing a host of after-school activities at unbeatable prices, whilst making just enough to cover costs, subsidise some courses, and re-invest in equipment.

RA offered himself as a co-ordinator between the committee and Hanne for a better mutual exchange of ideas and understanding. PR also offered to do an annual review with RA of Hanne's work, to better support her.

CD expressed concerns about public liability in conducting some activities, and she wondered whether more IT could be introduced into the ECA process.

RA and PR to look into these matters.

ACTION RA/PR

10. Calendar:

Before the meeting Carin Hoogendam, calendar committee rep, met with Ms Boyle to discuss the calendar for 2007-8. Carin asked the committee to vote on whether parents would prefer to have a free school day on – Friday 8th February 2008 or Friday 2nd May 2008. The committee voted for the February date. This will be reported back to Ms Boyle and the final agreed dates for the school year 2007-8 will be issued to parents as soon as possible.

ACTION CH

11. Interparents:

Before the meeting Karin van Vrede sent an update which was read out by CD and is reprinted here:

Since our previous committee meeting I have attended the Interparents meeting to prepare the Teaching Committees in November. The Interministerial High Level Group met on 13 November. They have been discussing a general framework for the future of the ES system. Below is partly quoted from the Commission press release on 14 November.

*"In the course of **this orientation meeting**, a large majority of EU ministers and the Commission agreed on the need for a more flexible concept of the European school system, which could be applied in the future to three types of schools: the existing classical European schools²¹; the national or international schools providing European education to the children of EU staff in locations where*

European agencies are about to be founded and that could be entitled to offer the European baccalaureate; and a third type where a Member State decides to take such an initiative independently of the existence of a EU agency or institution."

One of the proposed steps forward:

- "the launching in 2007 of a pilot project aimed to open up the European Schools educational model to schools all over the EU. The idea is to promote the spreading of the European Baccalaureate to any school which complies with the requirements set by the European Schooling system regarding pedagogical targets^[3]."*

According to this press release these issues will now be further examined and discussed within the regular framework of the Board of Governors of the European Schools. We will not know what this implies exactly until we see the draft agenda of the January BoG meeting. What we do know is that the two European schooling projects in Parma and Dunshaughlin have been formally accredited up to the end of year 5 at the Oct BoG. Much work still needs to be done to achieve the availability of the EB for these projects as they are not formal ES.

12. Futures:

Meetings: RA explained that two Futures meetings with new members have taken place, on Thursdays 23rd and 30th November, the first meeting to 'educate' the new members of the background and work already done, the second to devise strategies for retaining the existing school and thinking of a new school. The next meeting will take place on Jan 11th when a full review of the Van Dijk report will have been completed by the Futures committee.

Alumni of Culham ES: RA also pointed out that there seems to be no formal list of alumni from the ES Culham. Such a list would be very useful in future for fundraising, lobbying etc. He already has the name of one ex-Culham European School student in Cambridge who is interested in helping with the compilation of such a list, whom he will recontact. **ACTION RA**

Other websites were discussed:

- CG said there is a 'Grads.com' website,
- SZ had already sent details of an ES website based in Brussels,
- ad hoc entries on the school website,
- an active old-Culhamite organisation of those who attended the teacher-training college before the school used the premises,

It was strongly felt that none of these satisfy the urgent need for a formal list of pupils who have graduated from this school in the past 3 decades.

The committee appeals to parents with ideas on the compilation of an alumni list/database to contact RA.

13, Any other business:

PL-M attended the Primary Conseil when the school management reminded parents again that children should be picked up on time on Wednesday and Friday half-days. Children should wait in the P1 playground until collected, and never go alone to the bus bay or car park.

14. Next Meetings:

CESPA Committee meeting Thursday 18th January 2007, Dining Hall Annexe, 8.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.45pm /KR 13.12.06