



KEVICC Parents Association  
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## Parent Voice meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, online

### MINUTES

#### Present – parents and carers:

Eva Baker	Ally Jonas	Corinne Turner
Clare Beach	Jenny McJohnston	Taryn Nixon (PA Sec)- minutes
Brian Cooke	Nojus	Becky Snow (PA Treasurer)
Clare Gale	Laura Robinson	Caroline Snow
Alistair Irvine	Susie Hall	
Christine Johns	Meike	

#### Present - Staff and Governors:

Alan Salt (Principal)

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the online meeting and introduced themselves.

#### 2. Vote of appreciation

The meeting began with a vote of appreciation for all that the teachers and other staff members are doing to look after our young people and their learning during these difficult times, not only managing risk but doing so in fast-changing circumstances. Staff availability and willingness to answer questions and respond to parent and carer emails was greatly appreciated. Alan confirmed he would continue to hold these sessions fortnightly. He thanked the meeting for their appreciation and said that parent emails saying thank you were really appreciated by the staff and a quick email has a big effect.

#### 3. Matters arising from the Parent Voice on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

There were no outstanding actions or matters arising. (The previous Parent Voice had addressed: new teaching arrangements; school uniform; the *Weduc* communication tool; the PSHE parent/carers consultation; the KEVICC Canon).

#### 4. PA finance update

Becky Snow (PA Treasurer) summarised the financial position:

At the end of September PA funds stood at around £5,600 in the current account and £800 in a deposit account. This was after paying £1,500 to KEVICC to support the reading strategy.

The National School Lottery raises c. £2k each year, with over 70 £1-a-week tickets sold.

The previous Treasurer, Mike Smith, has kindly agreed to be available pro tem as a co-opted Committee member while the Treasurer role was handed over from Mike to Becky.

Becky said that in the past we would have held back c. £3.5k cash to be able to stage the fireworks event and maintain stock to run refreshment bars at events, but as these were now not going to take place, the PA is in a financially strong position to be able to award grants during the current year and/or put funds toward a larger goal.

#### 5. PA Plans and fundraising in the year ahead

Taryn summarised the Committee's ideas for fundraising during the coming months. As PA activities were now so different, it seemed that the PA could make the most difference by fundraising against a specific target(s). After discussion with Kirsty Matthews (Deputy Principal), **the Committee proposed that the PA should fundraise for two areas which would have the greatest reach and impact and help to strengthen a sense of belonging at this challenging time:**

- (1) **Break-time facilities and equipment – to make the most of opportunities for students to play and learn outdoors, to socialise and discover themselves, to be creative , because being outdoors is so important for young people's physical, cognitive, social, emotional and behavioural development;**
- (2) **KEVICC's new Reading Strategy – to help to encourage and inspire reading for pleasure and reading together, because reading is not only crucially important to young peoples' success in life, but it inspires and connects people.**

KEVICC had launched the new Reading Strategy this summer with the KEVICC Canon, the 'living list' of 50 books that KEVICC students, carers, parents, teachers and librarians recommend. There is now in-tutorial reading-out-loud (whereas in-school reading used to stop after Year 9). The PA Committee was enthusiastic about the strategy and KEVICC's ambitions to inspire reading right across the College, including with reluctant readers and families. The PA had contributed £1,500 toward the cost of books and bookmarks for all students for tutorial reading, and also vouchers for the College's incentive scheme to encourage students to read a book from the KEVICC Canon for pleasure. The meeting agreed that it would be good if vouchers could support local business. Meike suggested thinking of a way for students to capture their own stories, e.g. with a big board or screen accessible at break-time.

In discussion there was strong support from parents for fundraising for both outdoor break-time facilities and for the reading strategy and Alan Salt confirmed that these were both areas where support would be welcome.

Taryn reported that the PA is awaiting registration with HMRC to be able to collect Gift Aid. The intention is to make giving easier, through an online site with low or no fees (e.g. Givey, CAF-online, Just Giving) which also handled Gift Aid declarations. It was suggested that KEVICC could register with Easy Fundraising (and/or Amazon Smile, The Giving Machine, etc.) which the Committee would follow up. Given the PA's size, between us we know thousands of people, and so the plan is to reach wide and approach alumni, organisations, grant-giving charities as well as individuals, and to welcome donations of all sizes.

Events and online fundraising events were discussed. Alistair Irvine and Laura Robinson suggested considering an online raffle and silent auction. Alistair offered to help to run a raffle and also suggested that firms could be approached for raffle prizes. Jenny suggested approach local churches as a good potential source of support; Corrinne suggested contacting Liz Waterson. A Christmas gathering was being considered but this would require a small group of people to agree to organise this.

Alan told the meeting that KEVICC had just received a large grant from the Foundation Governors, and commented that even if amounts raised by the PA were not large, they could be used to raise match funding and to show the College is proactive in fundraising.

## **6. Parents' suggestions and questions**

- 6.1 A KEVICC branded hoodie had been proposed; this suggestion has been noted by staff. Alan commented that generally uniform changes do take a long time to play through, not least as they can affect existing arrangements with uniform suppliers.
- 6.2 A number of parents had raised questions about mobile phone usage at break-time when it might get in the way of face-to-face socialising. Alan reassured parents that the policy permitted reasonable use and that there is intervention when unreasonable use is seen; other issues including cyber bullying were also high on the agenda.
- 6.3 Alan said that he will continue to hold fortnightly Q&A sessions for parents and carers and these are very useful in both directions.

## **7. Next meeting**

The Parents Association AGM will likely be on 15th December online, to re-elect or elect Committee members and to sign the accounts prior to filing with the Charity Commission.

## **8. Summary of ACTIONS:**

1. FUNDRAISING TARGETS: The Committee will ask Alan Salt and Kirsty Matthews to confirm which specific thing(s) – e.g. outdoor seating, furniture, sports or other equipment – the College would like the PA to fundraise for, with indicative costs where possible. This is because fundraising will be more successful with specific goal we can bring to life for potential sponsors.
2. READING STRATEGY SUPPORT: The PA will continue to liaise with Anne Law about ongoing support.
3. PARENT and CARER INPUT: Once Gift Aid registration comes through, the Committee will invite feedback from parents and carers on a proposed fundraising campaign.
4. PA VOLUNTEERS: The Committee will invite parents, carers and friends to offer support to get in touch if they are able to co-organise a Christmas event and/or online raffle or auction.

End – 1809 pm