

Minutes from RSPA meeting on 13th November 2014

Meeting called to order by Maggie Berney

Present

Frances Greaney, Maggie Berney, Marion Murphy, Niamh Sherwood, Michelle Hill, Gangadhara Ambati, Amit Gupta, Anne Harding, Arunas Ruksnaitis

Apologies

Virginia Cullura, Miriam Graham, Meenu Paliwall, Jason Humm, Elaine McCann, Lyndsey Nugent, Tracy Hill

ITEMS DISCUSSED

1. Wine and Welcome Evening

- The Wine and Welcome Evening was once again a successful event with Big School almost full to capacity. New parents enjoyed the event and found it to be a very good way to meet other parents.
- Over £100 was given in donations on the night at the bar and £160 was raised through jewellery sales for Sure24.

2. Quiz Night

- Michelle reported back that the Quiz Night was a big success, a team effort with numerous people helping out on the night.
- Over 120 tickets were sold and £750 was raised on the night.
- This is an event that generates a big return as there is little outlay in terms of costs. It was suggested that the RSPA holds this as an annual event. Michelle volunteered to run this event once again next year in October to get the new parents on board.

3. Careers Convention

- The careers evening for boys in year 9 and above was a busy event with over 50 local companies and professional occupations represented at the event. The event gives the boys an opportunity to have 1:1 talks with professionals from a variety of industries and helps the boys to make choices for their GCSE's. In addition talks on Medicine, Sales and Law were held throughout the evening. A number of the advisors are alumni who support this event. The evening was well organised and ran smoothly – with lessons learnt from previous years.

Actions: Thank you note to Meenu and the team for organising a successful event.



4. Fundraising Events – Spring Term and beyond

- The following events were suggested:

Ceilidh – a barn dance was held at school 3-4 years ago and this was very successful and it was therefore proposed to hold another one, preferably during Lent term. It was decided not to provide food as the event held previously just about broke even.

Race Night – it was proposed to hold a Race Night, an event which similar to the Quiz Night generates a lot of income for little expenditure.

Outdoor Film Night – it was proposed to hold this event in the Staff Garden in the Summer Term.

Actions: **Ceilidh** – Arunas to research cost and availability of Ceilidh bands. **Race Night** – Frances to check with Mr Robson about holding this event as it involves gambling. **Outdoor Film Night** - Marion to research what is required for such an event and the feasibility of running it.

5. Committee Positions

- The following Honorary Officers were elected

Chair – Biffo Ordish was proposed by Maggie and seconded by Marion. Biffo is already a class rep and sits on the parent consultation committee

Treasurer – Arunas Ruksnaitis was proposed by Niamh and seconded by Anne

Vice Chair – Ven Para was proposed by Amit and seconded by Niamh. It was considered more appropriate for Ven to stand for the Vice Chair role instead and switch from the Assistant Secretary role which Ven had previously been elected for at the AGM.

New Trustees – Biffo, Arunas and Ven to be added as trustees (Niamh, Arunas, Biffo, Ven, Paula Jane-Ridge)

Signatories for cheques – Arunas, Ven, Meenu and Biffo

Actions: **All** – If you have not already done so, send a photograph of yourself to Cheryl Archer for uploading onto the RSPA page of the Reading School website. (thearchers@numberfour.plus.com)



6. Funding Requests

Outdoor Equipment Project – Frances to obtain an update and report back by e-mail.

Equipment for Science Laboratory – At the AGM Mr Robson asked that the RSPA make a contribution towards the new science block project. It was agreed that this should be the main fundraising drive for the current academic year. Planning Permission has been granted for the construction of the new science block and construction is due to start in 2015.

Sports – Amit commented on the lack of sports facilities in school and asked if the RSPA had considered funding additional sports facilities such as a new sports hall. Frances responded that the school will in fact be bidding for additional funding for sports in 2015.

Action: Amit to put together a proposal and costs to the committee.

7. AOB

- Amit is a part owner (sleeping partner) in a local business, the Jazz Café at the Madjeski Stadium in Reading. He is willing to sponsor an event and will explore this further as to when would be a good time to hold an event.
- **Thank You Tea** – to be held on Friday 12th December 2014 at 2.30 pm. This is an event to thank all those who have given their time to helping Reading School throughout the year.

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 15th January 2015

Time: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Venue: to be advised in Agenda

Meeting closed by Maggie Berney at 8.15 pm

Minutes created by Marion Murphy