

Minutes of the Children's Parliament Meeting

Thursday 3rd November 2016

at Normanton Junior Academy

Attendees: D. Dickinson (Chair), Miss Davies, Mrs K Newton, Mrs Cavell and Mr Salway with representatives from NCPA, Miss O'Dowd with representatives from WPA, Miss Lodge with representatives from SKA, Mrs Allen and Mrs Simpson with representatives from CI, Mrs Swann with representatives from SKA, Mrs Tutt with representatives from LB and Mrs Tait and Mrs Wood with NJA representatives.

1. Welcome and introduction

DD welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year. DD introduced Bradley N from Normanton Junior Academy as the Prime Minister.

DD introduced a rule to the group that anything members would like to say in this meeting will be listened to and considered. Members can speak freely about any ideas, concerns or issues and will all be given opportunity to do so. The parliament has an important role in the running of the multi-academy trust, and the role of the representatives is valued.

2. Role of the parliament

DD drew parallels between the Children's Parliament and the governance of Britain. Each school is comparable to a constituency, which the Parliament members represent at these meetings. This means it is a Waterton MP's job to represent the views of their school and ensure the school's voice is heard.

DD introduced a rule that members of this group will not talk over each other, or at each other and the group will all talk together.

The Children's Parliament will meet at different schools in the Trust throughout the year. It is MP's responsibility to ensure they feed-back to their school any important information or decisions made.

3. Review

DD gave a brief review of the last year's parliament decisions and events. This included:

- The election process for a Deputy Prime Minister.
- Inter-school Olympics – The Trust needs to look at what worked well in this event and whether it can still work with increased schools in the Trust.
- Trip away – Parliament members visited Kingswood as a team.
- A way of communicating across schools was requested.

- A Music Evening at Wakefield Theatre Royal is to take place on the 17th January 2017.

ACTION: DD to speak to MINT regarding communication for MPs.

ACTION: KN to bring details of the Music Evening to the next meeting.

4. Election of Deputy Prime Minister

DD gave an explanation of democracy or oligarchy and asked the group to vote on how they would like to elect.

Agreed: Oligarchy = 3 Democracy = 31

The last candidate was elected following a video application and voting throughout the whole Trust. It was agreed that this was a fair process last time, and will be repeated. Children who would like to be Deputy Prime Minister will put together a few words about why they should be voted for, and make a video which will be uploaded to the Trust website for all children to view and vote on. This is not open to year 6 children as the Deputy becomes Prime Minister next year after a year of being supported by the current Prime Minister.

AGREED: Election to follow same process as last year – via video application and whole trust vote. Any school councillor can apply for this role, with the exception of Y6.

ACTION: KN to send out deadline dates.

ACTION: Candidates for Deputy PM to create a video. KN to collect this and add to the website.

5. Poetry Competition

The Trust ran a poetry competition with an 'Autumn' theme, winners attended a poetry day with positive feedback. The Trust would like to produce a book of the winners' poems, DD opened up discussion to the group about what might be included.

It was agreed that the book should have illustrations, and that there would be a competition to find illustrations to put in the book.

The poems are to be put onto the Waterton website to inspire illustrators. Schools are to ask children to illustrate their favourite poem. This was agreed as a majority vote.

AGREED: Poems to go onto the website. The competition is open to children of all ages. The Children's Parliament will then decide on the best interpretation of the poem during the February meeting.

6. AOB

6.1 A member requested that the group considered having two Deputy Prime Ministers to allow an opportunity for Year 6 councillors to take this role. The majority vote was in favour of this proposal.

6.2 It was suggested that an MP take over as chair of the meeting. After discussion, the majority vote was in favour of a member of the group being elected as chair. It was suggested that members may take it in turns, but it was felt that this would not be appropriate. The group proposed that this role as chair could be instead of the previously agreed second Deputy PM role, which was passed by majority vote.

6.3 DD requested that all MPs go back to their schools and ask what they would like to change, any ideas or concerns.

AGREED: A Year 6 Councillor to take over as chair. Candidates to prepare a short speech and attend the next meeting, when the MPs will vote in a chair.

ACTION: School representatives to feedback to Y6 councillors and candidates to attend next meeting.

ACTION: MPs to speak to constituency school about ideas, changes or concerns in order to feedback at the next meeting.

DD gave thanks to everyone for attending.

The next meeting will be held at Charlston Community School, Monday 5th December at 12.30pm.

Deadline Dates:

Thursday 17th November – Candidates for Deputy PM to have prepared a video.

Friday 18th November – Trust will collect videos and drop off ballot boxes.

Monday 21st November – Videos will be posted on the website for schools to view.

Monday 28th November – Schools to inform KN of any Y6 councillors who would like to apply as chair.

Monday 28th November – Schools to inform KN of any issues the student body would like to be discussed as agenda points at the next meeting.