



**Midhurst Rother College**

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

**Midhurst Rother College Association  
Minutes of Meeting held on 3 November 2011**

**Present:** P Stringer, J Vitagliano, J Weeks, K Brash, J Temple, S Sadler, T Mayhew, A Jones, A Dennis, S Anderson, A and G Buchanan, D Standing, S Murray, M Keohane, A Smith, L Mason, S Williams, S Sheldrake, J Beesley, H Carter, B Carter, S Gulland, S Armstrong.

**Items discussed:**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

- Dr Joe Vitagliano (JV) welcomed parents and introduced the aims of the MRCA:
  - a. Place to share ideas, act as a consultative body and help with the transformation of MRC.
  - b. Create a social calendar for parents, teachers and support staff of MRC
  - c. To help with fundraising

**Setting up a committee**

- JV explained that the MRCA had not met for over a year and that there were currently MGSA and MISA accounts to formally close. In combination the sum of money available to the MRCA once this had occurred was approximately £4000.
- JV outlined that a new committee needed to form consisting of:
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary.
- JV asked for volunteers. Phil Stringer agreed to take over chairing the meeting for the 23 February 2012 only, allowing time for a Chair to be found.
- Question from the floor about possibility of having a parent represent each year group was raised. Through a show of hands, every year group was represented bar Year 13.

**Dress Code of Sixth Form:**

- Jen Weeks (JW) spoke about ideas for a tighter sixth form dress code, which could include a more formal business style look. Views were taken from the floor on this which varied from formal suits for boys and girls once in the new build as they would be acting as role models to younger students and be people to aspire to. Other parents commented that smart / casual would be acceptable, but very tight definitions of what this was would need to be in place as it would be easily open to various interpretations.
- One parent commented that if a smarter dress code was brought in, then a drop in student applications to Sixth Form would be seen.
- Harry Carter (Sixth Form Student) made comments about how currently dress code is within sixth form and how it is enforced.
- JV explained ULT point of view on the Sixth Form Dress Code and how currently we are the only ULT academy within the group which is not in suits.
- JV to take comments made at the meeting about sixth form dress code back to ULT for further discussion.

### Feedback on uniform at Key Stage 3 and 4:

- JV asked for feedback from parents on the uniform policy.
- Comment from one parent about still seeing “sticky skirts” though now longer in length.
- Parents from the floor felt that the uniform now looked smarter and boys in particular with the clip on tie.
- Comment raised about the loss of skill of tying a tie with them now clip on.
- Quality of uniform and sizing from suppliers was commented on:
  - New blazers were not as durable and lining ripped. Would be prepared to pay a little more for better quality.
  - Skirt not flexible for girls when doing sit-down activities such as drama
  - Jumpers loose shape quickly
  - Sizing does not match from parental measurements to product – comment about skirt waist sizes.
  - Girls’ skirts loose colour and go grey after washing.
- JV went through policy of enforcing uniform.
- JV was asked about where the ‘knee’ was in reference to the length of a girl’s skirt.
- One parent asked for sizes to be in school for parents to see prior to ordering to ensure they get the correct size for their child.

### Vertical Tutoring:

- JV explained what vertical tutoring was – students would be in small form groups made up of students from Years 7 – 11, though students would still be taught in year groups. JV explained that he had looked into this as a possibility for Midhurst Rother College when in the new build. However this would not be something would take place for at least two academic years from moving into the new building. **If** it was something that was to be done, would not be done without proper consultation with students and parents and further investigation to ensure the proposal was right for MRC. It was made clear that vertical tutoring was only a possibility being considered and not a definite.
- A parent asked about the house system. JV explained that there would be houses in the new build and the names of these are named after authors connected to the local area:
  - Austin
  - Kipling
  - Tennyson
  - Woolf

### Update on the new build / School Safety Zone.

- JV explained that the building is on track for September 2012 occupancy. Windows will go in during November 2011.
- If parents are interested in a site tour, please get in touch with Miss Jen Weeks ([jen.weeks@mrc-academy.org](mailto:jen.weeks@mrc-academy.org)) who will organise dates for groups of parents to be shown around by Balfour Beatty.

- JV explained that the School Safety Zone was being planned and organised by West Sussex County Council and not Midhurst Rother College.
- JV explained that we have 4 days provided by the Department for Education to take ownership of the new build and that currently MRC is looking at claiming two of these days at the end of the summer term and two at the start of the new academic year. ***Although not yet confirmed***, this would result in the last day of term being the 18 July 2012 for students and the 19 and 20 July 2012 being 'moving out days' for staff.

### **Extended College Day**

- JV gave his view that the current school day was too short and that he would like to introduce a later start and but also a later finishing time. JV went through the idea of a 'Period 6' in which all extra-curricular, booster, and revision sessions would occur.
- The College would still be open to students from 8am and a breakfast club would be in operation.
- Finish time would be around 4 to 4.15pm
- A proposal, completed by Mrs Pringle, will be going to parents in January for comments and JV will present the new times to West Sussex for them to organise the transport.
- Parents unanimously supported the possibility of an extended day for MRC.

### **AOB**

- Parents of Year 7 children commented on how impressed they were with the transition process and thanked the staff for their prompt replies to emails.
- Parents commented that they liked the communication and email addresses on the website worked really well.
- A question was asked about the turnover of staff. JV commented that a healthy school will always have a turnover of staff. It was also important to say that in some cases some staff moved because their performance was not up to the standard needed by MRC students and parents.
- A question was raised about unauthorised absence marks, even when the student may have been doing something cultural or developmental. JV explained the policy on this – sadly it would always be deemed as unauthorised (in line with WSCC and national policy).

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Date of next meeting: **23 February 2012.**