

The Multi-school's council
Meeting Minutes
28th September 2017 - Edith Borthwick
School
MID Essex Section

In attendance

Essex Local Offer team
Edith Borthwick
Richard De Clare community school
John Bunyan primary
Ramsey Academy
John Ray junior
Thriftwood
Great Bradfords
Project ability

Minutes

Introductions were made by everybody apart from Thriftwood school who joined us just after we started. It was great to have all schools attend the meeting.

Firstly the children came up with ideas on how to improve our multi-schools council website but it was also a chance to showcase it to our new group. The main ideas included bigger and more colourful text, more photos of what we do, more information about special education, update the list of schools involved and potentially use the website more for children as a 'chat room/safe place to go' (this idea links into a later point around mental health).

Then we spoke about the special schools games in Basildon next year where we will really need the help of young leaders to help the run the day. Schools were asked what sports they would potentially like to be involved in and here is what they came up with;

Football - John Bunyan
Wheelchair Basketball - John Ray

Basketball - Thriftwood
Swimming - Richard de clare/John Bunyan
Kurling - Great bradfords/Edith Borthwick
Ramsey - Handball

In the coming months I will meet with Active Essex to discuss who will support which sport and when the training will be offered to schools prior to the event.

We then combined points 4/5 with what was a packed agenda. I gave the schools a quick overview of our talent show and community fair events and proposed that these be opened up to the whole of Essex. I asked for their ideas on what stalls could potentially be offered at both events. Ideas included, Hook the duck, archery, bake off, a mindfulness tent and a soft toy stall. Ideas will be combined with those across the county and details of each event will follow.

Moving on to a real important aspect of our work this year and getting the children to think about ways we could better support mental health in schools. The children came up with a range of fantastic ideas which included an obstacle course day where people can be challenged to overcome their fears and raise awareness around mental health. For schools to share ideas on sensory resources/rooms, peer support groups and friendship projects which could eventually be made compulsory in every school. An idea linking back to our website was a thought around creating a chat zone/worry area, where children could come online and share their thoughts. These ideas will be taken to a meeting in October with people involved in mental health first aid training.

After working hard it was time for some food and drink. We also managed to get a good photo of the group. Vanessa Hockley from the Local Offer team then spoke to the group about the Local Offer and how it could support young people in education and beyond. The children were reminded about the support services out there and how they can make a difference to these.

Moving on from that we then looked at out of school opportunities across the Essex area including different areas of sport and education. Firstly the children would like to see more clubs such as music opportunities, urban sports, fencing and technology clubs while focusing on being trained in sports such as Karate, Basketball and tennis so that they can help

teach others. The other aspect of this agenda point was asking the children what prevented them from getting involved in clubs and this included;

- Being laughed at
- The cost
- Actually getting to the club (lack of transport)
- Gender stereotypes
- Not knowing anybody

Some of these points have come up before and all this information will be passed onto groups such as Sports for confidence and Active Essex.

Finally we took ideas for our MSC book which is going to be produced by JaJaJa books. Ideas for our book included highlighting children who suffer with anger issues, that children with special needs find a range of things difficult, that it can be difficult to make friends and to see if the book could include sign language and maybe a talk button for some of the pages.

Our star of the meeting for our MID Essex group went to Elsie-Mai who spoke really clearly and had the brilliant idea for a mindfulness stall at either our fair or talent show. Well done!

Next meeting: TBC