

**Multi Schools Council Meeting
25/1/12**

Present

**Market Field-
Mr Pearce
Harry Mayhead
Abbie Osbourne**

**Philip Morant-
Keith (Teacher)
Ben
Alice
Hannah**

**Shorefields-
Craig (Teacher)
Matt
Joe**

**Elmstead Primary-
Clive (Teacher)
India
Jack
Tom**

**St Helena-
Miss Taylor**

**Tendering Tech-
Mr Rouse**

Minutes

10:30am

The first issue discussed was what was the general feeling towards disability in sport and throughout out society and how could we as a group change that. I asked the pupils what they thought about their school and their views on how pupils view children or adults with disabilities. Alice from Philip Morant school suggested an event where children from mainstream schools come along to support and watch an event where people compete who have disabilities and to maybe aid children with difficulties by supplying more equipment to help people with disabilities. Ben also from Philip Morant school said that the school does a lot for people with hearing impairments but should maybe be looking at creating more opportunities for people with different impairments. Alice then went onto say that there should be more sporting competitions that involve both mainstream and special schools as a ‘Games for all’.

10:40am

We then went on to talk about how we could get more children involved with school sport. Hannah from Philip Morant School said that there should be better rewards for children who take part in sport and not just for those who win, but simply those who take part, this was repeated by Clive from Elmstead Market primary school. Ben added that as well as the physical side of sport there should be more opportunity for children to involve themselves with sport on the organisational side of it, so helping with sports days or linking schools together. Abbie from Market Field school added that sport should be all about the exercise, fun level and making people happy, this she believes would make more people want to get involved with all levels and types of sport.

10:50am

We then went on to talk about the current opportunities in school sport and if it was offering enough, here is a full list of sports that the pupils felt there was not enough of at school level;

- Tennis
- Swimming (Schools should come with pools!)
- Dodge ball
- Table Tennis
- Long Jump
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Golf

Part of the problem the council felt was the lack of local facilities that were available to be used by schools. It was explained by Keith that it is frustrating to have a wonderfully surfaced tennis courts that are 5 minutes from the school and they can't be used. The general feeling was the facilities throughout the area need to be utilised better and schools maybe help each other out with different facilities. Ben said that schools should be doing more to link primary and secondary schools together to create these kind of opportunities. This will be a major part of the ongoing project. Craig from shorefields school explained how they have started a house system, this got different pupils competing against each other and created more opportunities in sport.

11:05

Our final and biggest point was to talk about what the schools will be doing towards the 2012 games and what schools would like to see happening, bearing in mind our target of trying to change the perceptions on disability in sport and creating sports for all. Inspiration was a key point that the pupils came up with, how to inspire children to want to get involved. Alice and Jack from Elmstead Primary said how they thought it would be a fantastic idea to get athletes into schools. Hannah came up with the idea of creating an 'Olympic walk'. This would be based around the idea of the torch relay, but to have a school relay moving with something that relates to the work we are doing on the council. Everyone on the council seemed to love this idea, including myself. India said she

thought it was a great opportunity to raise money for schools and this could be done by getting families to sponsor the children for the Olympic walk. The general feeling on the council was again that there should be more festivals linking secondary and primary together especially in the run up to the games. Philip Morant and Mr Rouse from Tendering Tech both spoke about how they already have festivals in place but will be looking to use this council to expand the ideas. The festivals would try to include all different types of Olympic/Paralympics sports. Joe from Shorefields school had the idea of maybe doing some kind of Olympic cycling, again maybe to raise money for school sport and use this time running up to the games to publicise it. He also went on to say how maybe sports like netball should be seen more as a unisex sport and if we are talking about equality and involvement for all we should look at sports that maybe have a sexist perception. Harry suggested creating alternative sports which could be done by all age groups, for example if primary schools wanted to do the hammer throw it could be changed so that they weren't throwing something so heavy or possibly dangerous. Abbie said that we could have a schools quiz to get all the schools together and have a little competition based around sport and the council really supported this idea. Mr Rouse said that he wanted to expand the primary athletics festivals and involve more schools involved with this project. Miss Taylor from St Helena said that a lot of schools were going to have opening and closing ceremony's at their sports days to celebrate the games. Miss Taylor also said it would be useful to have training on how to use specialist disability equipment like the stuff received by many schools through Sainsbury's. Hannah mentioned the idea of having an Olympic fair, again money raised could go towards school sport but this would help create a fun perception of sport in schools. Philip Morant spoke about how they plan to have coaches coming into the school to help with volleyball and boccia. Elmstead spoke about making more extra curriculum clubs more cross curriculum so that sport can be put into other subjects, they also said about how they plan to raise money to take part in some activities at the O2 arena geared up to the 2012 games. Elmstead Primary also said they would quite like the festival at the colne community school to be different this year. Finally shorefields have been organising links with primary schools involving the sport of Goal ball.

11:20

The meeting came to a close and I asked the question if there was anything extra the pupils wanted to add. Ben suggested that the teachers should get involved more with the games and maybe the side of competitive sport which went down well with the teachers. It was agreed that at the meeting the pupils would be left on their own for a period of time to discuss issues and the teachers would go sit on a separate table.

The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday the 27th of March 11pm – 1pm at Colchester United Football Ground.