



**Minutes of the Friends of George Spicer Parent Teacher Association  
Annual General Meeting  
held on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Pat Ayinde  
Hilary Ballantine (Head Teacher)  
Jo Brinklow (Chair)  
Jane Cotter (Vice-Chair)  
Gemma Baker  
Caroline Craig  
David Goodfellow  
Lianne Grant (Treasurer)  
Kat Hides  
Lia Kousoulou  
Athena Marinou  
Fiona Markham  
Helen O'Donnell  
Anne Prouse (outgoing Co-Secretary)  
Dawn Tilling  
Sara Vestberg-Thomas  
Alex Wilson (Assistant Head Teacher – Assessment & Maths)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Christina Culora, Dani Maria Gavriel, Sarah Hitchcock, Lia Kousoulou, Rahme Mehmet-Clare and Kay Williams

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were agreed as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

No matters were noted.

#### 4. Chair's report for the year ending 31/3/2018

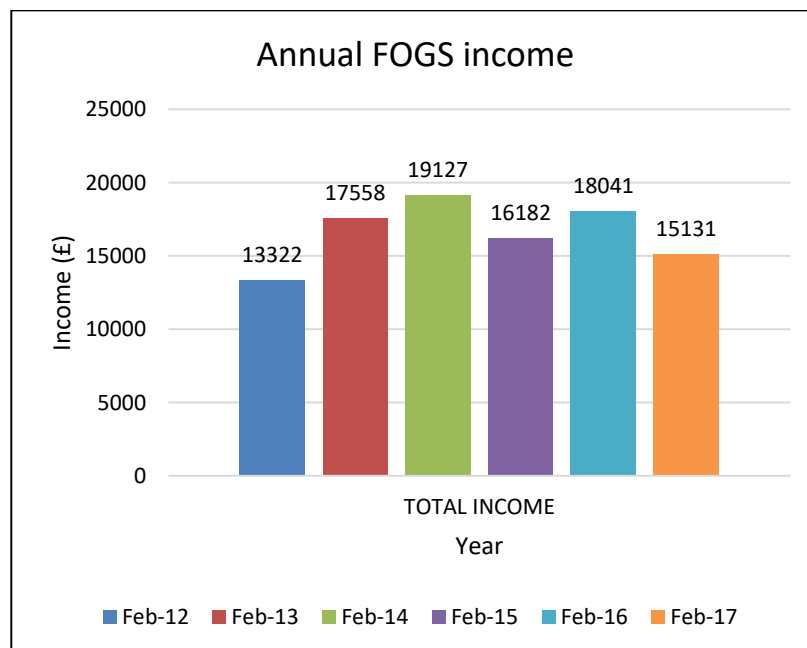
The Chair outlined the function of FOGS PTA, which has nineteen members/trustees (seventeen parents and two teachers), and meets monthly during term time. FOGS is registered with the Charity Commission, so its members are trustees, and its main objective is to advance the education of pupils in the school.

This incorporates

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.
- Providing and assisting in the provision of such facilities or items for education at the school (not provided from statutory funds) as the committee in consultation with the Governing Body shall, from time-to-time, determine.

The Chair outlined FOGS' objectives for 2017, which were to raise more money, come up with new ideas for fundraising, recruit new members, and to increase visibility of FOGS and parents' and teachers' understanding of what FOGS does. She explained that FOGS used to fund 'nice to have' things but these days it was providing items more crucial to our children's education due to funding cuts.

The Chair then presented an overview of FOGS income by year from 2012-17.





In 2017/18, FOGS had agreed and submitted a new constitution to the Charity Commission, approved several new policies including a code of conduct, conflict of interest declaration and data protection policy. The committee had also introduced an online ticketing app for events and started accepting card payments at events. With the school, FOGS had produced guidance for class parent reps, and ensured that FOGS fundraising events and Rights Respecting School supported fundraising events were spread more evenly across the year.

FOGS had also introduced a new logo, designed by FOGS member Sara Vestberg-Thomas, which was more inclusive of both school sites, and raised the profile of FOGS by running a Mother's Day gift stall at consultation day and providing regular weekly updates in the school newsletter. In addition to this FOGS had supported a new sponsored run and scoot event for year 2 to fund part of the cost for their year 3 swimming lessons, and introduced an annual sponsored reading event and book fund, suggested by parent Angela Hunt. Cinema events, suggested by FOGS member Rahme Mehmet-Clare, were now becoming a regular and popular part of the school calendar.

For the first time, in 2017/18 FOGS had made two successful bids for community grants from Waitrose and Aviva, both of which were led by FOGS member Sarah Hitchcock. New fundraising initiatives (Easyfundraising, Stikins, Microscooters) had been started, and FOGS had continued with the discos for Key Stage 2 children, a quiz night for parents, and selling personalised Christmas cards and other gift items at Christmas.

The Summer Fun Day and Winter Bazaar had been revitalised, led by FOGS Vice-Chair Jane Cotter, and raised record- breaking amounts.

The Chair told the meeting that in the 2018/19 school year FOGS would like to continue fundraising for the school and have a long 'wish list' of items from the school. It was important that FOGS can make it more clear to the school community what each event is raising money for. FOGS also planned to hold a welcome event in September for the whole school community and officially open the outdoor classroom which was being built using Aviva grant funds. Overall, FOGS aimed to continue to increase awareness and involve the school community in its work for the school.

## 5. Treasurer's report for the year ending 31/3/2018

The Treasurer presented a graph showing net income at February 2018 of £30,416, up from £11,035 in 2017. She then showed a high level overview of event and other income net profit.

Event Net Profit		16/17 Net	17/18 Net
Summer Fete		4,248	<b>7,670</b>
Winter Bazaar		5,268	<b>8,545</b>
Other Income		2,158	<b>15,489</b>
Expenses		-639	<b>-1,288</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		11,035	<b>30,416</b>

The Treasurer also presented a breakdown of other income.

## Other Income (Net)

Event/Activity	Amount Raised
<b>AVIVA</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
Sponsored Read (New)	£1,319
Cinema Events (New)	£870
Sponsored Run (New)	£721
Mothers Day (New)	£107
Waitrose Community Fund (New)	£528
Stikins (New)	£72.47
Christmas Cards	£1,020
Discos	£490
Quiz night	£337
Other (Donation and Interest)	£24.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£15,489</b>



Finally, the Treasurer outlined where the £20,790 donated by FOGS to the school during 2017/18 had been spent.

4 <u>Clevertouch</u> Screens KS2	£10,555
Maths Equipment – KS1 and KS2	£7,000
New Instruments for Reception	£646
New Reading Books - KS1	£1,100
Contribution – Year 3 Swimming	£720
Year 6 Leavers Books	£666
Mud Kitchens for Reception	£103

The Head Teacher expressed surprise that the cinema events had made more profit than discos. The Treasurer explained that a DJ cost more than the yearly cinema licence.

Dawn Tilling asked whether the Chair and the Treasurer could come to a staff meeting to present this information, so that all staff knew what FOGS does and were aware of the time FOGS members commit to raising money for the school. The Head Teacher agreed that this was a good suggestion and said she would discuss with the Chair and Treasurer. She had noticed more staff taking part and supporting events, and agreed it would be good for them to see where some of the money is coming from. Caroline Craig recommended also having a meeting for new parents, with interpreter/s.



## **6. Report from the Head Teacher**

The Head Teacher expressed her admiration and thanks to FOGS. She said this was the most difficult and stressful time she had known since she started working in education. Her priority was to keep the spirit of George Spicer and give its students the skills and confidence to move forward in their lives.

The Head Teacher advised that the outdoor classroom, funded by the successful FOGS Aviva win of £10,000, was in the planning stages and the total cost would probably come to just over £10,000. The outdoor classroom would be built over the summer and officially opened when school resumed in September.

George Spicer had won the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, which recognised that the school had fully embedded children's rights throughout policy, practice and ethos, and she thanked FOGS for their support in this. She thanked FOGs for supporting the school's Year of Maths, and providing money for maths equipment, as well as books for Key Stage 1, musical instruments for Reception, and interactive whiteboards, which were now in almost every classroom.

### Parent survey

The Head Teacher outlined the highlights of the recent parent survey. This year the survey had received the highest number of responses ever – 354. Responses averaged around 70-80% Agree/Strongly Agree for the following questions:

1. My child is happy at this school
2. My child feels safe at this school
3. My child makes good progress at this school
4. My child is well looked after at this school
5. My child is taught well at this school
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
8. This school deals effectively with bullying
9. This school is well led and managed
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress
12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?

Parents were also asked whether they would be willing to give a yearly contribution to the school, which was something some schools already asked for.

Another question explored parents' feelings about a change of hours for the school day (eg for KS2, starting school at 8am and ending at 2.30, with an optional paid hour of enrichment activities until 3.30pm). This was becoming a more pressing issue given funding cuts and the need for teacher's preparation time. The Head Teacher had spoken to other schools who were either already doing this or seriously thinking about it, and was looking at her options in this area.

The Chair asked whether this might have an impact on punctuality. The Head Teacher said that anecdotally other schools had found roads were clearer earlier in the morning.

The Head Teacher presented a poster which illustrated the impact of school funding cuts in Enfield on teaching staff numbers, learning resources, quality of education and pupil wellbeing, and stressed that this was an issue throughout London but also nation-wide. Further information can be found at [www.schoolcuts.org.uk](http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk)

The Head Teacher outlined her wish list for FOGS funding in the coming year, in order of priority:

- Year 1 outdoor area (£900) – already agreed
- Books for KS2 (£2000)
- Topping up maths equipment (£600)
- Funding coach trips for Reception and Year 1 (£1000)
- Ocean Maths homework packs (£500)
- Reception – specific small world and role play (£800)
- Projector, screen and sound system for downstairs hall SR.(£5000)
- Film/recording equipment to video shows (£1,500)
- Coding toys for Year 2 (£1000 - £2000)
- IT resources (£40,000) IT suite revamp

The Vice-Chair pointed out that the change to school time would mean an extra hour per day in school for her child, and other parents agreed.

## **7. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of Accounts for the year ending 31/3/2018**

The Chair explained that as FOGS income was over £25,000, the Charity Commissioner required a full set of accounts and this meant an independent examiner of accounts needed to be appointed. It had been decided that the person who examines the school's accounts would be appointed to this role.



## **8. Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee**

No interest was expressed in the vacant co-secretary role. The chair listed the existing officers and trustees, and these were all duly seconded and elected. There was one trustee vacancy - Helen O'Donnell nominated herself for this position trustee and was seconded and elected.

New list of officers and trustees:

<i>Chair</i>	Jo Brinklow
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Jane Cotter
<i>Co Secretary</i>	Rahme Mehmet-Clare
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lianne Grant
<i>Vice-Treasurer</i>	Christina Culora

*School Staff*  
Athena Marinou  
Dawn Tilling

Gemma Baker  
Caroline Craig  
Dani Maria Gavriel  
David Goodfellow  
Sarah Hitchcock  
Lia Kousoulou  
Fiona Markham  
Clare Martin  
Helen O'Donnell  
Anne Prouse  
Sara Vestberg Thomas  
Kay Williams

## **9. Any Other Business**

Dave advised that the gazebos and weights kindly donated by the Paternosters should be delivered to the FOGS shed this weekend.

Jo B thanked all FOGS members for their hard work and dedication, and thanked the school for their support and for all they have done and continue to do for our children. She thanked all who had attended.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.