

BIDS MEETING

Monday, Nov. 11th 2013, 7pm.

Chairperson, Sarah Needham, introduced the meeting thanking parents and teachers for coming and saying we had so many presentations to hear and decisions to make that we needed to start promptly.

There were 13 presentations and 19 other written bids, totalling requests for £99,148. The bids were excellent and showed the staff's enthusiasm for doing the very best for the School and the students, but the amount of money available was half what was being bid for.

After the presenters had finished and left, the parents attending discussed them all and made the following allocations:- (Bids numbered as in the printed Agenda.)

1) Bid from Drama Department presented by Lauren Overs:
asking for some fantastic lights, a movable spot lantern controlled from a desk, a mirror ball and a UV Cannon.

AGREED £ 2,766

Although these will be fixed in North Wing Hall, the drama department do share their facilities with the whole school at times and contribute to FSA fund-raising (e.g. at "Fortitude").

2) was included in with No.4)

3) Bid from Music Department presented by Sarah Ogilby:
asking for music stands and a storage cart.

AGREED £ 1,005

Also asking for a big programme of lighting, needing £ 9,000 this year and £ 3,000 for two following years.

NOT AGREED

This would take too much of our budget, even though the music department do contribute so much to "Fortitude" and in other ways. Not possible this time.

4) Bid from Design and Technology Department presented by Vanita Bhambra:

AGREED £ 665 for the mannequins, TV and special sewing machine.

NOT AGREED to fund a 3D printer at this stage

NOT AGREED to fund beanbags from John Lewis. We thought these could be cheaper and D&T should come back to us before next summer with quotes for cheaper beanbags and popcorn maker.

We thought they might be able to raise money for the 3D printer, maybe with the FSA, by running a fashion show!

5) Bid from Asst. Head, Martha Collins,
for garden clearance of an area behind the Astro Turf.

NOT AGREED but a list of parent and other volunteers is being collected to work on the clearance!

She also asked for funds to bring expertise into the school for training us to work in new ways, "Outside the Box" including some money for materials and CPD. (see Agenda for details).

AGREED £ 1,500

6) Bid from Biology Department, presented by Dan Grossman:

He gave a very exciting and inspiring talk about the trip to Indonesia and an exchange with Rotterdam but we felt that these would still happen without our help and were limited to bursaries helping at the most 42 students.

However, his request for money for MedSoc for a course helping students wanting to go into Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Services was agreed.

AGREED £ 500 for the MedSoc budget.

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- 7) Bid from the Maths Department, presented by Paul Jenkins asking for funding for 15 tablet computers, he thought iPads would be best, allowing a class of 30 to use them, and - most importantly - letting children help children, experimenting and being creative with mathematics - a new trend in education and maths, - not so teacher-led. Plus 3 Apps.

We felt that a pilot-project should be run first, so
AGREED £ 2,500 to allow for perhaps 4 tablets and Apps.

- 8) Bid from the Library presented by Gill Ward: asking for funding for author, poet and artist visits, "Book Buzz", the Carnegie Book-Shadowing etc. (see in Agenda)

AGREED £ 3,235

thanking her for all her help in promoting FSA activities and fund-raising as well as the pleasures and importance of reading for all.

- 9) Bid from Fortismere Music Centre, presented by Katie Lang: asking for some portable staging for use by the school and the Community Choir, Orchestra and Percussion Group.

AGREED £ 2,276 for the set of 12 pieces (the smaller bid)
on condition that these remain school property but can be taken out of the school building on occasions.

- 10) Taken in with nos. 14) and 15)

- 11) Bid from Art and Photography Department, presented by Guy Holden: asking for 20 Apple Mac Book Pros, cost £15,679.
He made the point that Photography is a hugely popular subject, in great demand with classes of 18 students a time.

NOT AGREED to spend such a huge amount without a trial run.

AGREED £ 2,500 to allow for perhaps 4 tablets.

He agreed to help run an Art Weekend and use the proceeds of that in addition.

- 12) Bid from Science Department, presented by Dan Stonier: asking ideally for 72 tablets (for 12 laboratories), saying that there are wonderful on-line teaching resources for science which the school needs access to.
(See Agenda for details) but a smaller offer would be gratefully received!

NOT AGREED to buy 72 but

AGREED £950 to allow for perhaps 6 tablets

N.B. regarding all the bids for computers/tablets, we appreciated that each had thought quite carefully about security and this must have high priority; we ask that the best deal be sought, and that we have feed back after the purchases on how they work out, before more investment is made.

Second Bid from Mr. Stonier was for the on-line homework package called
Doodlelearn.co.uk.

AGREED £ 1,000

- 13) Bid from P.E. Department, presented by Gavin Kay: he said what an amazing achievement the Haringey Hockey team have made by winning the London Youth Games - all members of the team being from Fortismere. and asked for funding for a pair of badly-needed hockey goal posts.

AGREED £ 3,900 for the cheaper of the options

We all congratulated the team on their achievements.

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10), 14) and 15) Bids put in by Olympia, Rhodes and Ephesus Colleges. The students had actually made a video. They were gathering ideas about making lunch time a better experience for all and about a School Council.

Due to pressure on funds, we asked if all the Colleges would help us sell our Winter Raffle tickets as widely as possible. If they organise keeping the receipt/halves of the books and account properly for the money, we would give them half the proceeds to use for their ideas.

16) Bid in writing by Asst. Head, Karen Alloway:
saying that they did not use much of their grant last year but paid it back. She would like to develop the work to the gardens in the school with raised beds etc. adding to the work done last year.

She also asked for continued funding for the Vivos scheme.

AGREED £ 2,000 for Vivos funding
and the gardens issue to be taken in with bid No .19).

17) Bid in writing by Florence Fineberg:
asking for funding for a researcher to back up the work of the New River Teaching Alliance. This is mostly financed by government, Oxford University and other bodies (see Agenda) but the researcher funding is not covered.

Fortismere is taking part in research in teaching methods and how to improve things.

AGREED £ 2,720

18) Bid in writing from Modern Languages Department, by U. Merkel-Jordan:
asking for funding for on-line language learning courses that are not covered by the government funds, in particular for learning Mandarin. (Two Parents mentioned how much their children liked using "Yabla")

AGREED £ 2,793

19) Concordia Bid in writing by D. Ferguson:
asking for funding for work to improve school gardens; (see Agenda)

AGREED £ 1,000

we decided to put this money into the hands of Anne Keogh, School Finance Officer to share between Concordia and bid No. 16 from Karen Alloway and other garden bids e.g. Nos. 5) and 26) below,

suggesting we and they look into the free fruit tree offer from River Cottage TV Programme and free seeds for schools from Waitrose, and also ask for offers and donations from parents.

Also B&Q is cheaper than Sunshine Garden Centre.

20) Bid from Government and Politics Department in writing by Kirsty Holder:
asking for funding to help set up a library in the sixth form teaching room and also an on-line programme called Visualiser.

We felt that much of this should be paid for by core school funds but there will always be the need of topical publications for this subject, so

AGREED £ 400.

We hope the department might be able to help US with advice on democratic processes - such as making all these decisions at this meeting!!

21) Bid from the new Classics Department, in writing from Jo Arrowsmith:
asking for funding for reading materials to help build up books for the new department.

We again felt that this should mainly be resourced from core-funding, but

AGREED £ 200 because of pressure on funds.

Gillian Phillips offered some books and expertise with contacts to other classicists.

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- 22) Bid from the English Department in writing by Catharine Coles: asking for us to cover the cost of British Sign Language Level 1 examination fees as she has a totally deaf student and is working together with the Blanch Nevile School to cover the cost for the whole class.

AGREED £ 940.

- 23) Bid from Science Dept, from Mr. Stonier asking for money for refreshments for science workshop. We did not feel this was something we should spend money on with this amount of pressure on funds.

- 24) Bid from 6th form, written by Zoe Judge, asking for funding to help continue the good work of Ink Magazine.

AGREED £ 500.

- 25) Bid from History Dept. written by Jo Caroussis, asking for money for text books etc., for new scheme of work. We thought this should come from core funding (as with bids 20) and 21).

NOT AGREED

- 26) Bid from LINC presented by Stuart Johnson: asking for an Interactive White Board and a Shed.

AGREED £ 1,500.

This is less than he asked but we felt the shed could be done a bit cheaper.

- 27) Bid from the Chemistry Dept. by Mehmoush Atali, asking for funds for 4 of our Year 7s and 2 Fortismere teachers to take 12 children in Year 6 from feeder primary schools to a Sleepover at the Science Museum. We thought this a lovely idea but not something that we could fund at £45 per head for children from other schools.

NOT AGREED

- 28) Bid from ICT Dept. from Aiden Tibble, asking for money to purchase a Raspberry PI classroom set which is an innovation to help us keep up with our "Specialist Computing status.

AGREED £ 900.

but with the same provisos as the other computing bids.

- 29) Bid from the Dance Dept. put in by Kat Williams, asking for money to buy a Step into Dance programme.

AGREED £ 500

- 30) Bid from P.E. Dept. from Louise Bailey, asking for money for Yoga mats and resistance bands for Yoga, Pilates and aerobics especially for Years 10 and 11.

We support the idea but felt the prices could be better suggesting they come back later to us.

- 31) Bid from P.E. Dept. from Simon Cox asking for equipment for First Aid training as part of "enrichment".

AGREED £ 590

for purchasing 4 resuscitation dolls!

- 32) Head Teacher's General Fund for Helen Antony.

AGREED £ 7,000

Unfortunately this is less than last year but we felt we were under too much pressure this year.

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The Total of all Bids was £ 99,148.

The amount we had available to allocate was £43,000.

The total allocations made this evening is £ 43,840.

Apologies to those who are disappointed.

Meeting closed at 10.30, in exhaustion! Thanks to everyone who had put in bids or presented them in person and to all the parents who came and took part in the discussions and to the Chair and committee.