

Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2021, 6.30pm on Teams

MINUTES

Present: Jude Owen, Sharon Warne, Nina Copping, Sharon Bisset, Nyall Donald, Jen Payne, Judith Vosper, Katherine Hathaway, Julie Mcquillan, Neil Spurdell, Heather Quantrill, Maura Chamberlain, Louise Carver, Kevin Pearce (arrived 7pm)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jude Owen gave the welcome and introduction. She gave a background to the original Parent Enrichment Fund, how it was started to encourage parents to donate to a fund that would be used to provide extra-curricular activities for all students with after school clubs, school trips etc. With Covid-19 and school closed it was a good opportunity to refresh the fund to give it a new lease of life. Jude had found new parents willing to help, worked with them to change the name and look at new ways to raise funds. Thanks went out to Carol Cradock who had retired as Chair and all previous committee members.

2. Report of the year and the future of the fund

Nina Copping gave a report of the work that had been undertaken over the last year. The working group felt that especially post Covid-19 the Opportunity Fund has an important part to play in funding rewarding and life enhancing opportunities for Sheldon students, by supporting after school clubs, making trips more affordable for parents and providing resources that the school would otherwise be unable to buy. The fund also helps to strengthen bonds between the school and parents and to build a sense of community. By bringing parents together and utilising their enthusiasm and skills we can raise even more funds and do even more for Sheldon students in the future. We welcome any new parents who would like to get involved.

3. Financial Report

Sharon Warne gave a financial update. The fund has a bank balance of approximately £13,000, although a proportion of these funds are being dedicated to grant awards in the coming term now that there the lockdown restrictions are easing and more activities are able to take place.

Income is raised through donations (made through ParentPay or through standing orders/direct debits). We are very pleased that 55 people have a regular monthly donation in place and would like to encourage more people to set this up. In addition we receive income from people who have chosen to support the Fund on Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. We also receive Gift Aid on donations where we can claim an extra 25p on every £1 donated when a parent states they are a UK taxpayer.

Although new awards have not been made this year, in the last couple of years the Fund has contributed to worthwhile activities such as the following, Book Buzz, Ten Tors, Riding Club, Theatre Trips, Maths in Action, Prizes, Reporter Club and Lego Robot Club.

As a general rule we do not intend to hold too much money in the bank but instead we will start awarding funds regularly again so that people know their donations are quickly going to good use.

4. Election of officers and trustees

The following Officers were **elected** with no objections

Chair - Nina Copping

Treasurer – Sharon Warne

Secretary – Sharon Bisset

The following Trustees were **elected** with no objections

Neil Spurdell – nominated representative of Sheldon School

Jude Owen – nominated representative of Sheldon School

Kevin Pearce – re-elected

Nina Copping

Sharon Warne

Sharon Bisset

5. New Name and Branding

Sharon Bisset reported on the proposal to change the name. The previous name 'Parent Enrichment Fund' was not very clear and also not widely known by parents. The working group had come up with various options and after consultation with parents and staff settled on 'Sheldon Student Opportunity Fund'. A competition was held for the students to design a new logo which was won by a student in Year 10. This logo will now be used by the Fund.

The legal name remains unchanged which is Sheldon School Enrichment Fund.

It was **agreed** that Sheldon School Opportunity Fund would be adopted as the working name.

6. Parent Engagement and Future Activities

To take the fund forward there is a lot to do. Examples of the work needed are: rewriting the website page, publicity, fundraising ideas and help. It can't be done without parent involvement and support. The Committee is a working group and welcomes new parents who would like to utilise their skills and bring ideas and enthusiasm. For people who are unable to commit to being a part of the core working group, they are very welcome to be a friend of the Committee by giving us their details so we can call on them for help from time to time.

NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING – 20th MAY, 5.30PM ON TEAMS