

**Finnish School in Manchester**  
Committee meeting  
at 8 Canterbury Park, Holme Rd, Didsbury  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**MINUTES**

Present

Jenni Viitanen (Chair)  
Taina Rahkola  
Leena Kirk  
Noora Hyvölä  
Marie Louise Langeveld  
Laura Linkomies

**1. Welcome & apologies**

Jenni Viitanen welcomed those present. Päivi Turunen and Christina Aro had sent their apologies.

**2. Previous minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (1<sup>st</sup> October 2005) were approved without further changes.

**3. Events 2006**

Jenni has been approached by Finns who will visit Manchester in August to take part in a *flute festival*. As they have offered to perform for us, Jenni will contact Joyce Parker to find out whether we can suggest a venue. It was noted that August would be a tricky time to organise an event, as many people would be away on holiday.

It was decided to organise the *summer excursion* on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, and head to Ullswater in the Lake District. Jenni had consulted members via e-mail on whether they would prefer a boat trip on the Manchester Ship Canal, or a steam boat trip and a walk in the Lake District. The Lakes seemed a more popular and child friendly option. The excursion will allow members to enjoy a boat trip on the lake, and either to take part in a walk along the shores of Ullswater, or visit a nearby 18<sup>th</sup> century house, Dalemain. Price for coach tickets would be decided later depending on the number of participants. Jenni promised to obtain a quote for the coach trip.

It was decided to organise a *Vappu*, 1<sup>st</sup> of May picnic after the normal school day on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The picnic will take place in Longford Park in Chorlton/Stretford border, or, if it rains, we will meet in the King's Ransom pub in Sale, next to the Sale Metrolink station.

The date for the *Christmas party* was set for 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was decided to organise a traditional party, and bake some gingerbread houses with a view of selling

them to the local community to raise money for the school. The ginger bread houses were admired by many at the 2005 Christmas Bazaar, and it was felt that they would be a source of extra income for the school.

As our Events Organiser, Mari Pelkonen, is currently living and working in China, it was decided to ask Nana Akumanyi if he would take over the post. Marie Louise Langeveld promised to assist when needed.

#### **4. Teaching matters**

Taina explained that the beginners' group was now quite big, 16 people, and that as two complete beginners had recently joined, it would be helpful to have a teaching assistant who could concentrate on those two to help them reach the normal level. It was decided that this group will have a teaching assistant. The exam group may also need an assistant in the autumn.

It was also decided that in order to facilitate getting feedback from students, teachers will design and circulate a feedback form at the end of each spring term.

There was a discussion about organising a toddler group, and it was felt that it would be very beneficial to the toddlers if their mothers would start a playgroup / music group and alternate as teachers. It was stressed that the mums who frequent the school with toddlers should organise this according to their needs/preferences.

Taina made a point of many students not having paid their fees, and promised to remind them by e-mail, as it is vital for the school to receive this income.

#### **5. Library**

Jenni explained that the new books donated by Suomi-Seura have now been collected by Leena Prothero – many thanks to Leena for looking after the library! There had been some misunderstanding about us not paying the annual fee. However, it has been paid and Jenni will ask Suomi-Seura for confirmation of this.

Jenni had sent a grant application to Suomi-Seura for the purpose of buying a new book case for the library. Jenni would inform everyone of the outcome.

#### **6. Shop /**

#### **7. Coffee Shop**

Jenni thanked the volunteers who organise the shop and the cafeteria, these functions are very important to the success of the school. Their work is much valued.

#### **8. Finn-Guild AGM 25-26.3.2006**

Jenni informed that Kirsti Murray and Marie Louise Langeveld will represent us at the Finn-Guild AGM.

#### **9. Spring newsletter**

Laura told that she and Christina have got the materials together for the spring newsletter, and it should be ready to be distributed during the week starting 19<sup>th</sup> March. A few members had also sent their contributions by 15<sup>th</sup> March, and Laura and Christina were just waiting to get the details of events from this meeting.

It was noted that the newsletter is another example of outstanding work undertaken by volunteers. Many thanks to Laura and Christina for this!

### **10. Welcome pack**

Christina had written an excellent welcome pack, which updates the previous one. The following amendments were made: Marja Nurmikko will be added as an Exam Group Teacher, and Leena Kirk would prefer not to have her e-mail address, instead her telephone number would be printed. Marie Louise Langeveld promised to act as a contact for pesapallo in case Yori Prothero wants to have a well earned break. Jenni promised to inform Christina of these amendments, and get a cost estimate for printing this A4 size leaflet.

Taina promised to design a smaller size leaflet that can easily be given out at events.

### **11. School diary**

It was decided to keep a signing-in-book and a diary for the school. This will, in addition to being good house keeping, make it easy to monitor attendance at school and other activities. Jenni will organise a ring binder that can be circulated every school day amongst members, and where records of activities could be kept.

### **12. AOB**

Jenni was pleased to announce that our Government grant for year 2006 is 2200 euros. This is an excellent result. It was previously feared that as the number of children attending classes is smaller than before, the grant would also be affected. (The grant for 2005 was 2300 euros).