

Clermiston Parent Council

Minutes taken from meeting in GP Room on Monday 28th September 2015

Present:

Dawn Thomson (acting Chair for evening)

Gordon McIntyre (Head)

Geraldine Forsyth (Depute)

Melanie Ruxton (Head of Fundraising)

Kerry Courtney (Uniform Rep)

Andrew Ho (Treasurer)

Charlie Goldsmith (Newsletter Rep)

Karen Keil (Cllr)

Rachel Liddell

Helen Muir

Orla Irwin

April Wallace

Lorraine Cowe

Apologise given by Sarah Hinks, Katie Campbell

1. There was no business to discuss from the previous meeting

2. & 3

GM gave an update on the school report, it was all very positive; a letter will be issued to all parents once it's been signed off the inspector.

New teachers for the school P4B Mrs Porteous & P3A Mrs Brusatte. Clermiston Supported Play Area - is a little area where Miss Davie has set up as a play area for children who find the playground difficult, it's a supervised play area in the P3-P7 playground. The children are really enjoying the new "quiet" area, the plant boxes will be planted up next week & new artificial grass to be put in front of GM office. Once all has been completed a plaque saying that the area was funded by parent council will be erected.

The new build has a few small snaggings but in general it's working well on a day to day basis. GM has an issue with the fence and with access to the carpark and the playground; a double fence is to be built to resolve this issue.

The introduction of modern languages is going well, the whole school is doing French and German is to be rolled out from P5 at a later date.

4 Fundraising - MR gave an update on the summer fayre – due to the bad weather the outdoor activities (fire engine & bouncy castle) didn't do too well. £600 was raised for the parent council & the P6 stall raised £145

Future fundraising events:

Halloween Disco at the end of October

Christmas Cards – already in the school, to be ordered late October/early November

Family Portrait Day – booked for St Andrews Church on 1st November

Next Year: A whole school art fair, AW has contacted a company who will provide canvas and frames and come to set up the fair in the school, the idea is to have a "show" before the school breaks for Easter, thoughts of including the wider community for this by inviting local artists/residents

Potential Quiz Night – OI to look into this to see if it's a viable option – if it's to go ahead it will be before the end of March so as not to clash with the Gala quiz.

Uniform: KC & OI have been looking at a new supplier who will facilitate online ordering – Border Embroidery are able to provide free delivery to the school (twice a week) or a charge of £4.95 to deliver to a home address. They can provide P7 hoodies, school ties (the current supplier are unable to provide ties), house t-shirts name tags, school bags etc. KC/OI/GF to review prices and bring back to next parent council meeting. If prices are reduced there will be knock on effect to the cash generated for fundraising. BE would provide the parent council with a cheque of funds generated once a year. KC is hopeful to get this new supplier up and running by January 2016. Possibility of having a second hand/old stock stall at the Christmas fayre to clear old stock (and the large collection of second hand stock) this stall will need to be manned.

5. CG did her first newsletter the next one is due out in November; this one will have the school logo on it. She asked if anyone had anything to contribute to future newsletters.

6. Treasurer Report:

Money In:

Summer Fayre £700

Uniform: £4900

Money Out:

Front Entrance £4000

Rope Lighting £50.00

Ice Cream for book fayre £200.00

Uniform & ties £6900

Balance £3436.88

7. No current funding requests. A thank you was given for the fulfilling of previous request and GM remarked on all the positive difference that the contributions have made to both pupils and staff.

8. Pupil Council met on the 22/09, there is a transitional period between now and January for the old representatives to give a smooth handover to the new representatives. A main concern for the pupil council is the toilets; P6 & P7's are going to design posters in conjunction with Health & Wellbeing in order to get the right message out to the pupils about hygiene. The pupil council would like to invite members of the parent council to their next meeting which is on Tuesday 27th October at 1.30

Community – St Andrews Church has produced its first newsletter it hopes to produce 3 a year, over 2000 letters were produced and delivered within a week.

9. Teacher Absences – MR raised a point about what procedures are in place when a teacher is absent from school & wanted to know if there was continuity of care for the pupils and that their needs were being met. GM replied that absence was an issue throughout the city which has a knock-on to the availability of supply teachers. Supply teachers are meant to follow weekly plans – but this is only possible if the absent teacher has been created one. The school has to deal with absence on a day to day basis and therefore has a number of procedures in place in order to create as little disruption to the pupils as possible. Each year group has a daily diary, shared planning period across each stage and weekly class plans.

The school does its best to ensure that a teacher is in the classroom which sometimes means that GM & GF have to teach.

Rachael Liddell commented on how the communication of absence has improved & it is making it easier on the children (notes have been issued to classes when it is known that the teacher will be absent for a period of time, but this isn't always the case)

10. Homework. DT raised the issue of the amount of homework for P5's, especially in maths. Parents felt that they didn't know how to help their children – could there be some explanation of the “other way”, perhaps giving examples. GF suggested putting on workshops. P5's had a large volume of homework to do in a short timescale. GM said that the school was to communicate that children don't have to always do their homework, but if they aren't doing it a note is to come to school saying as to why it hasn't been done (may be due to other commitments like swimming, family) GM wants each child to know that they won't get in trouble if they don't complete their homework. The goal for the school with homework is for the child to come home and consolidate what they have learnt in class that day. The school is going to look into a possible evening of explaining the curriculum. GM encourages parents to feedback to the teachers. Dorothy wondering if the council would provide workshops about maths in cluster schools. Gm going to look into this, he will contact Louise Stephenson who is the leader of the Maths cluster focus group. The in-service day in October will be focusing on maths.

11. Research group members needed. A request for members will go out in the next newsletter and also a notice will be put on the notice board. The notice board is a bit dull, Neil/Dawn/Mel to look into creating new board notices.

12. Minute taker – one is needed. There is a payment of £40 for a parent, it can be a parent but it can't be a member of the parent council.

Parent council notification letter – perhaps to be given out at Teacher/parent night – Dawn is going to write something up & send out. She will deal with this as soon as possible.

13. Facebook Group. Concerns were raised by parents about the lack of inclusivity. The parent council was against the page as a whole, the page referred to has since been closed down. There is a desire for communication via social media to be increased – GM said a proper discussion to be had about this.

Next meeting 26th October.