

Parent Council Meeting Minutes 26th October 2015

Introductions

Apologies: Sarah Hinks, April Wallace, Rachel Liddle,

Attendees: Andrew Ho, Dawn Thomson, Eric Jackson, Melanie Ruxton, Mr Lithgow, Kerry Courtney, Lorraine Cowe, Mr McIntyre, Charlie Goldsmith, Neil Gibson, Katie Campbell

Minutes from last meeting. Apologies that they were late. Kerry queried uniform figures. There was money from previous sales. Ties and homework bags separate.

Notes from Mr McIntyre

Management and Staffing

Mrs Brusatte is now in post in P3a. No baby news yet from Mrs Gray!

HT Paternity leave – baby is due at the end of November and it is likely that paternity leave will last for two weeks. Mrs Forsyth and Mrs Henderson will take charge of the school in the interim.

We are currently advertising 1 permanent and 2 temporary PSA positions within the school.

We are also advertising for an expressive arts teacher for a day and for a teacher to fill the role that Mrs Grieve has been doing on a supply basis.

School Environment

We have continued our school upgrading with the painting and decoration of the upper school hallways, doors and staircases. Cleaning staff have also deep-cleaned front foyer.

A recap of the improvement to the school environment over the last two years. These developments have been funded by the school, the Parent Council and the CEC authority. City of Edinburgh delivered on new build during austere times

- New curtains for hall, stage and GP room.
- Murals on nursery walls (provided by volunteers).
- Nursery Sandpit
- Clermiston Supported Play Area
- Front of school decking and seating
- Front of school tree planting
- 4 classroom extension
- Tree trunks on rear grass area
- HT office redecoration
- Outdoor classroom in wildlife garden
- New wooden storage shed in rear playground
- Nursery hill and willow run
- Parent Council Noticeboard
- New hall desks and new class set in P5

Clermiston Primary School Developments Update.

In school we have had a cluster primary maths in service day (focussing on fractions percentages and decimals) which all staff found positive.

Allowed staff to work with cluster colleagues and share and develop practice. For us one of the next steps will be to use some of the materials to have a curriculum evening for focussing on maths (as discussed/requested at last Parent Council).

A really inspiring and creative day led by Helen Donaldson the HT at Cramond.

Working Parties

4 staff working parties have been established this year and had their first meeting on Friday. All teaching staff are in a working party and the four parties are:

Maths and Numeracy

Literacy

Personal Learning

Planning Parental Engagement

We are really keen that staff get a chance to develop leadership within the school and this model should be an excellent way for staff to effect change.

Break-In

Break in on the Monday of the October holiday. Took 7 I-pads and the Janitor's laptop. Potential for damage was huge. People who know what they were doing. Almost all security procedures worked. Camera positions to be reviewed. They disabled the alarm. Was in Edinburgh News (Council wanted it in paper in case anyone knows anything). Charity collection money had been banked. I-pads were insured. Not sure about money or janitors laptop. Mel asked how long will it take to replace? As soon as insurance comes through.

Neil commented that the I-pad boxes are at window level, however these ones were stolen from locked cupboards. I-pads are digitally linked and have been cleared of all data

Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative

Letter with info sent to all parents. More info to come, but our understanding is local community get first opportunity to invest in the project. Star community school – fits criteria because of roof and position. Not investing school money. Eco group can see how much energy is used on monitor.

Neil knew about investing in shares. Projected return of 5/6 % then up to 7% by year 20. Better than banks.

CEC Budget Consultation

Can be found at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget

Consultation closes 10th December.

No major implications for our school at the moment, but worth contributing to, to emphasise your priorities and how much you value your local primary school!

Fund Raising and Global Citizenship

A phenomenal effort from the school community to support Mercy Corps work with child refugees, raising £515 in one day and in supporting the North West Edinburgh Foodbank with 383kg of food donations (19 Primary 1s!).

This kind of work links directly to our school vision:

“Our pupils should be confident in their right and ability to influence change through positive actions in their own lives and in their local and global communities.”

Kerry suggested trying a shoe box appeal. Kids reactions to seeing end process. Comes through pupil council.

Facebook Page

Discussed again and queried whether it was necessarily needed. Website/Parentmail/Photo confidentiality.

What are pros/cons

Moving with times. We looked at the parent bulletin from Royal High. Discussion space could become negative.

Gordon suggested a “Q&A with Mr McIntyre” – once a month/term.

Mr Lithgow pointed out that there have been nasty cases about Facebook from the EIS – Teaching Union.

Fundraising

Mel – Portrait Day 42 slots. 37 paid for. 150 tickets for P1-P3. 260 tickets sold. They can't insist that teachers help. Working time agreements.

Kerry – uniform £1568.75. Out £800ish. Stock already had. Geraldine and Mrs Templeton deciding about outline uniforms. Changing to Border Embroidery, who supply to a massive lists of schools. Cost of current high. Discussed the possibility of a uniform stall at fair. Uniform vouchers are dealt with by school. Border Embroidery said it wouldn't be a problem, will check.

Newsletter Update

Next 2 weeks. Christmas fair, egg box challenge. Minute taker. Research 2 different letters?
Mel and Charlie having coffee to discuss. Aim to be out week of 9th November.

Andrew – finance

Family Portraits £420* *check with Andrew
Uniform £1400.41
Printing expense
£5220 in account
More than £6000 including uniforms
Disco money coming £500
Regular funding requests

Music and Arts Initiative

Rachel had asked us to discuss musical provision at Clermiston.

“Sounds like Friday” “Sounds like Saturday”

P5 – P7. Hundreds of leaflets, haven’t arrived. Gordon apologised. Got email.

Cramond and D’ mains have strings. Clermiston has wind and brass. By the time they get to the Royal High they will have different components of an orchestra.

Historically instructors depend on size of school. Instruments distributed across cluster primary. P5s get recorder with Mr Lithgow which he does in his own time.

National Youth Choir Of Scotland are starting 12 week programme for all of P3

P4 and P5 – 5 weeks of ukulele and singing. Instruments left in school.

Music lessons for brass can start in P6 and P7. Katie mentioned that children can’t play a brass/wind instrument until their big teeth are in which might be why we start later at Clermiston.

Dawn highlighted that music and maths are closely linked.

Discussed the budget cuts and the impact they have on expressive arts. Maths – creative subject – freedom to play and express yourself.

Lost Property

Old lunchboxes etc. hygiene. Get separate box, labelled and given back to kids. 1 box that week, 1 box historic. Lots of unlabelled clothes. Rag box. Give job to P7s – part of recycling? Kerry volunteered to check the box regularly. Put in newsletter

Fast Forward

Eric discussed Fast Forward at St Andrews Community Project. Newsletter. 2/3 times per year. Clermiston school feature in magazine. All households in area. 2500 copies.

AOB

Dawn mentioned a spelling/typing error in a previous letter that came to parents. Proof read.

Next Meetings

AOB & Date of Next meeting 30/11/15

18/01/16

07/03/16

25/04/16

Our Annual General Meeting with take place on the 30/05/16