

Parent Council Meeting Minutes 13th November 2017

Attendees: Gordon McIntyre, Neil Gibson, Dawn Thomson, Melanie Ruxton, Orla Irwin, Emma McLoughlin, Anne Scott, Thomas Lynch, Jennifer Kirk, Kerry Courtney, Rachel Liddell, Leann Ramsay, Alastair Keil, Mark Brown

Apologies: Andrew Ho, Geraldine Forsyth, John Lithgow, Charlie Goldsmith, Eric Jackson, Karen Taylor, Robert Aldridge, Jude Thomson, Katie Campbell

Minutes

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- a. Andrew has enabled bank account access for Dawn and Thomas
- b. An afternoon meeting was held on the 7th November, which members of the ECO Committee and Super Committee attended. Another afternoon meeting will take place in a few months.
- c. Gordon to check if the locks in the girls' toilets has been fixed. **ACTION: GM**
- d. Gordon confirmed, with thanks, that dictionaries have now been replaced.

2. Update from Head Teacher

- a. Gordon advised of a successful open day with 90+ attendees and excellent engagement from pupil groups.
- b. The Forest Kindergarten pilot is now underway (15 places). This had been discussed at the previous meeting where Clermiston are utilising the site at Lauriston Farm (shared with Cramond PS). There has been very good feedback so far with a range of activities, including water-based play, climbing, etc. The pilot will run until summer 2018.
- c. The Digital Leaders group are participating in a country-wide initiative for Safer Internet Day and very enthusiastic about their contributions to filming.
- d. The school has participated in an education initiative, whereby Head Teachers visit other schools to share information around teaching practices, such as pace of delivery of lessons, pupil engagement and quick and effective feedback. This presented a great opportunity for teachers who had performed well.
- e. Gordon noted the launch of the "Big Three" behaviours, which has been developed with pupils and shows a clear escalation process for pupils and a clear set of sanctions.

3. Cammo Building Development

Mel had attended the recent pre-planning consultation for the Cammo residential development and updated the group. There are plans for 500-700 new homes with no new additional school, GP or dentist facilities and road planning is not yet clear either. The Parent Council discussed the update and are concerned about the impact on all of the local primary schools, which have very limited capacity to cope with an increase in numbers.

Anne/Dawn took an action to draft a letter on behalf of the parent council for submission to the relevant Edinburgh Council department. **ACTION: AS/DT**

4. Fundraising Update

The following fundraising items were noted:

- a. The Halloween disco was a great success and raised over £600 for the school;
- b. The Christmas egg-box challenge is underway. Leann will check if the nursery has been included;
- c. Gordon agreed to raise both the planned Christmas fayre and Egg-Box challenge at the school assembly and also noted that a rota has been put up in the staff room for volunteers for the fayre.
- d. Parent volunteers have agreed to co-ordinate the fayre and will arrange requests for donations and raffle prizes;
- e. £64 has been received for Stikins commission
- f. Gordon to confirm status of the requests for the portable cooker and book shelving and advised that a request for £570 for Story Sacks for the nursery would shortly be sent to the PC for approval.

5. Current Financial Position

Andrew was unable to attend the meeting but had provided the following updated financial position:

In -

School Uniform £106

Annual Ed Council Funding - £690.40

Halloween Disco Profit - £629.58

Xmas Card Money - £1428.75

Out -

School Uniform Invoices - £142.10

S1 Forrester HS tie - £6.50

Raffle Ticket license renewal - £20

P1 homework bag funding - £369

Bike ability Funding - £2000

Current Balance £9231.74

6. Social Media PC Presence

Thomas suggested a closed Facebook page for the Parent Council to set up and administer which would be used for the PC to update the parent body on initiatives and also to get feedback and ideas in return. The security aspects were discussed and the group agreed to pilot this with clear and strict guidelines regarding what is updated and how that is controlled. Thomas, Leann, Emma, Rachel and Neil were all happy to be administrators for the pilot.

7. Cars Entering Restricted Area Around School

The PC discussed the ongoing issue with repeat offenders still not adhering to the restricted area around school and dropping off/picking up children in cars. It was agreed that this is unacceptable and that we need to explore further methods of enforcement. Dawn will write to Eric Jackson at the Community Council and request that this is again raised with police (their presence does help but is sporadic) and if possible get some traffic warden support. The letter will also be copied to Mark who will find out if it is possible to get an increased presence. **ACTION: DT**

8. Crossing Guard

Dawn advised that the current guard remains absent and that no cover will be provided (cover is only provided on the first day of absence and thereafter a notice to parent advising of the missing crossing guard is deemed enough). Emma suggested that she write to the current guard to find out current status and Mark will raise with the local council to find out what the longer-term solution for this issue is. **ACTION: EM/MB**

9. Updates from Pupil Council and Community Council

Community Council: Eric Jackson will share an update following the Community Council, which was occurring at the same time as this parent council.

It was noted there is an ongoing issue with dog mess en route to school. Anne advised that she has been in touch with the local councillors and dog wardens for the area previously and that she would share their details and procedure for both reporting and dealing with offenders and to request street cleans where this is needed. Whilst not a direct issue for the PC, this is impacting the journey to and from school for many local families. **ACTION: AS**

Pupil Council: Parent council members were again encouraged to visit and the pupils have recently revised sanctions for misbehaviour (golden time versus break time).

10. Newsletter Update

It was agreed this was not required currently whilst the Facebook page is piloted.

11. Recruitment & Selection Training

Dawn, Anne and Leann are all happy to attend the training early in 2018.

12. NW Locality Meeting

Dawn noted the next meeting is on 29th November at 6.30pm for anyone interested and that it would cover the national improvement framework.

13. AOB

- Gordon advised Melanie that the issue with P5a gym timetabling was resolved.
- The daily mile continues to be a success with general acceptance around the table that dirty shoes were a better option than unhealthy children.
- Mark confirmed the fire alarm issue should be resolved this week

Dates of Next Meetings:

15/1/18

12/3/18

30/4/18

30/5/18 - AGM