

Parent Council Minutes 9th November 2020

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Kirsty Gallen, Katie Campbell, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Stuart Lithgow, Karen Souza, Emma McLoughlin, Morag Morrison, Neil Gibson, Alison Lynas, Mark Brown, Orla Irwin, Dana Henderson, Leann Ramsay

Apologies: Charlie Goldsmith, Alistair Keil

Introductions

Sandra opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves and share the year groups their children are in. All year groups were represented except primary one.

Meeting Minutes

1. **Recent achievements and request for feedback:** Sandra summarised a number of great initiatives either complete or underway
 - a. **Clothing cooperative** – this is now up and running and a fantastic way of passing on used clothes or obtaining good quality school uniform sustainably and economically.
 - b. **Halloween** – Gordon noted a fantastic atmosphere in school on the Friday where children were invited to come to school in fancy dress – some “normal” fun for all involved.
 - c. **HT Post** – Delighted to confirm Geraldine is now HT of the school on Fridays.
 - d. **Thank you letter for staff** – Geraldine noted how appreciative the teaching staff had been with this thoughtful note of gratitude.
 - e. **Communications** – The group had a lively discussion about the Facebook page and the introduction of another page where feedback has been mixed and some users continue to find it confused. Karen explained the structure of this and asked for patience where this needs time to grow audience. It was agreed to keep a watching brief.
2. **Newsletter:** The newsletter is in development and will be shared on the website, Parent Pay and Notice Boards.
3. **Panto:** The group reviewed the offering and agreed to fund this for the school where Gordon confirmed the school would be able to facilitate this during December and thanked the parent council for funding this for the children. It was noted there would also be a Christmas jumper day during December.
4. **Dog fouling / driver behaviour:** Sandra noted some anti-social behaviour complaints around school. The irresponsible driver behaviour/parking issue continues and we await the crossing planned for spring which should finally help reduce the number of issues at the Munro Centre end of school. Sadly, there are also local residents who are not clearing up after their dogs which makes the walk to and from school unpleasant and unhygienic for children and parents alike. Mark Brown agreed to follow up and provide current contact details and Rachel noted she would also provide details of locations where bins have been removed by the council, which can

exacerbate the issue. Dana thought raising awareness of dealing with this issue could be something the children could get involved in – raising issues with people in power / social responsibility and empowerment are all topics of learning in school.

5. Treasurer report: Rachel has now completed a full reconciliation of accounts based on bank statements to 27th October. She requested that 2 cheques not yet banked by school could be done as soon as possible to allow for a clear up to date position as these are now quite old. It was noted it would be useful to look into online banking at some point in 2021. It was also noted that £470 from the former p7 group was still being held but that decisions on how best to spend this were still being debated within that group. It was agreed to postpone this discussion to January when it may be clearer about potential options and more views have had time to emerge.

6. Head Teacher report:

Staffing - Gordon advised that there was now a new support assistant in the office, new PSAs will shortly join school and that a new early years practitioner is also due to join.

Connecting Scotland – Gordon thanked Kirsty for alerting school to this initiative which has resulted in 20 new ipads with 2-year broadband for school.

Outdoor space – Following the previous meeting, Gordon discussed this with staff and ideas are being developed with plans for classes to apply for funding where ideas which are visible and everyone can benefit are encouraged. In terms of brightening up school in the meantime, bunting is due to arrive and the school Christmas tree will go outdoors this year. Leann requested more clarity with entry/exit signs to ensure people are still complying with current restrictions and the one-way system.

Parent consultations – are planned for online early in December and details will be issued in due course.

7. Fundraising:

- a. **Christmas card sales** are going well with plans to build on this with tea towels early in 2021. Fantastic coordination by Charlie.
- b. **Raffle** prizes are building and it was agreed how this would be run logistically over Parent Pay with the physical raffle being done in school. Dana to put a tweet out for donations.
- c. **Christmas Treasure Hunt** planned with a list of clues and a map which will lead to local landmarks (around 10) and a chocolate themed prize for collecting. Small donation to enter (£3) via Eventbrite running from start of December to the week before schools break up giving plenty of time for families to get involved.
- d. We still need a coordinator to run the **lottery** with plans to put a shout out on social media with more information about what's involved.
- e. Orla asked for us to start thinking about the **current P7s** and the support they will need for fundraising into early 2021 to provide some sort of leaving celebration if possible. It was also noted this group have missed out on an

outdoor education experience this year. Dana and Rachel are working together to look at p7 led online pupil voice groups in a bid to close some of the gaps that group (and others) are experiencing there.

8. AOB:

- a. **Digital Champion** – following the Connecting Scotland initiative it was agreed to give some thought to provision of a digital champion who can help people set up and get benefit from their devices.