

Parent Council Minutes 18th January 2021

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Katie Campbell, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Stuart Lithgow, Karen Souza, Morag Morrison, Neil Gibson, Mark Brown, Charlie Goldsmith, Alistair Keil, Rachel Hefill, Mandy White, Jennifer Jones, Katie Campbell, Rita Nogueira

Apologies: Kirsty Gallen, Alison Lynas, Emma McLoughlin, Orla Irwin

Meeting Minutes

Previous minutes were approved.

1. **Fundraising:** Sandra summarised several recent successful fundraising initiatives for the group:
 - a. **Christmas trail** – had over 100 participants and some very positive feedback with some requests for an Easter one too!
 - b. **Raffle** – a team effort but extra thanks extended to Kirsty as chief organizer and a special thanks to Mhairi in the office for her support too.
 - c. **Christmas cards** – hugely successful this year and thanks to Charlie for organizing all of that.
 - d. **Totals** – Between Halloween and Christmas events, over £1900 has been raised which is a fantastic effort. Thank you to everyone who helped arrange, participated, and donated.
 - e. **Request for funds** – Anne requested approval to order High School ties for the P7s and this was approved. Anne to liaise with Geraldine on numbers and advise fee once confirmed.
 - f. **Other requests for spending funds raised** were discussed. Mandy thought it would be nice to have a longer term (larger) goal as well as some of the shorter term to term needs. Astro turf and an outdoor stage were two ideas which were thought worth further exploration – and charitable status will help us apply for matched funding for some of the larger ticket items. Stuart advised he also had some requests in progress from Pupil Voice Groups and would share those with the parent council once he had access to his classroom. Rachel suggested improving planters and Geraldine noted success with these in the past where classes took ownership of maintenance and looking after plants, etc. All agreed this has potential.
Action: Stuart to provide those pupil updates and larger tickets to be discussed at next meeting too.

2. **Treasurer report:** Rachel noted a balance of £4,000 and advised where fees were paid in and others were pending. Rachel requested help from school getting statements and the cheque for Christmas card funds (whilst school is out, and she cannot access the office) and Geraldine will help her with access to those.

3. Head Teacher report:

- a. **Home learning / school hub** are up and running with the kitchen catering for children in the hub school. Focus on safe and secure environment for those children in school to complete their home learning tasks and creating a positive atmosphere in school. The remote learning each day covers literacy, numeracy and one other subject. Following feedback and tech developments there is more live interaction and better workflow between teachers and pupils. Kit has been distributed / loaned with more on order and management team are actively contacting children with little or no engagement and helping solve issues. All feedback is welcome.
- b. **Staff** – Mrs Hamilton (p6) had a baby girl on Hogmanay which is lovely news for the school. Mrs Kinnoch is covering p3b and is well known to the year group as she is also a parent in school. Two new nursery teachers are joining and a school support assistant, so it has been a busy time with one more Early Years Practitioner post to fill.
- c. **P7 transition** – now actively being worked on and thoughts also extending out generally to the summer term.
- d. **Gordon** extended heartfelt thanks to Alistair Keil for his contribution to school life over the past several years and invited Alistair into school to meet with staff when circumstances allow. We have loved having him in school and as part of our parent council and he will be very much missed with good wishes all round for the next stage of his adventure.

4. Fundraising:

- a. **Tea towels** idea supported by all and Charlie will explore online options to get this one underway.
- b. **Lottery** idea still has some support, but we will need someone to own and run it. The group were not sure this was the right time for this initiative so on hold for now.
- c. **Easter trail** – as noted above.
- d. **All other ideas very welcome** – tell us!