

Parent Council Minutes 22nd February 2021

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Elaine O'Donnell, Karen Souza, Kirsty Gallen, Alison Lynas, Mark Brown, Charlie Goldsmith, Mandy White, Orla Irwin

Apologies: Katie Campbell, Morag Morrison

Meeting Minutes

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting and previous minutes were approved. Since the previous meeting, Mr Keil has retired and a gift was sent on behalf of the parent council.

- 1. The Great Outdoors:** The group discussed plans to use some of the funds raised to improve the playground space for all children and the following was noted:
 - A mixture of structured games and abstract shapes were preferred to promote creativity;
 - Delays caused by the building work and then the pandemic means some ideas which have been around for a long time could now be explored to really refresh the playground;
 - Longer term, the group are keen to support an outdoor stage and Mandy has done some work on costs and health and safety considerations where any structures must meet the pre-requisite health and safety standards. Ongoing maintenance also must be factored in;
 - Elaine advised on a clear procurement process which must be followed and can help support initiatives through the necessary facilities departments, etc. None of these barriers are insurmountable and Gordon and Elaine agreed to follow this up.
 - In the meantime, the parent council agreed to proceed with the smaller initiatives (paint, garden, games, etc).

- 2. Parental Engagement Survey:** The parent council were keen to get feedback on the recent survey and this was discussed with the following noted:
 - Gordon advised that the results were going to all parents that week and provided the parent council with the results which demonstrated a very positive response to the school's handling of home schooling this time around and a response from over 100 parents;
 - The less positive responses were a small but important group, and this is being followed up – some of those responses were down to individual circumstances, but all are being investigated;
 - The group also discussed how to get more parents engaged with the Parent Council which was noted as having benefits for all parties and allows teachers to link with the parent body. Gordon noted that some of the feedback via the parent council is anecdotal but still helpful in the process. Geraldine noted she has always found the groups to be strong and engaged but considered lack of opportunity in the last year for broader parent body to

connect – sports days, p1 introductions, school fayres have simply been unable to happen;

- Rachel noted less community inputs in recent years – community council updates, etc, have all but gone where this used to be a very active and engaging part of the discussions;
- Going forward, the group are keen for more diverse inputs and will work on a communication to contact the parent body and encourage / request involvement to broaden the range of voices.

3. Tea Towels: Charlie has been in contact with the company and doing this whilst half the children are out, looks complicated in terms of the software being accessible / usable for all. To that end, it was agreed that nursery and p1-3 could be facilitated in school and we'd treat this as a trial with the plan being to roll out to p4-7 when they return if all goes well. Anne keen to do this for p7 especially where it's unlikely a class photo will be taken for the year group about to leave.

4. Treasurer Report: Rachel noted the accounts shared are up to date and communication is ongoing between the school office and Rachel to capture any outstanding cheques or parent pay deposits (Raffle, Halloween) and Rachel would liaise with Elaine/Mhairi direct to resolve. A deposit has also been made for Easy Fundraising and the team agreed to promote this more.

5. HT Report: Gordon noted focus in the last month had been on efforts by all pupils and staff in current circumstances and noted in particular:

- a. A great staff effort and junior school pupils had a fantastic first day back in the classroom. A shout out to p3/4 teachers who had an additional juggle with a virtual / physical mix, but had created a fabulous teaching plan;
- b. Retirement virtual assembly planned for Mr Keil to thank him and celebrate his contribution to school life;
- c. World book week coming up with plans to participate in school and at home;
- d. Good support from parent council members in promoting social distancing in the playground and supporting the one-way system – the stricter we are, the more quickly we can get everyone back;
- e. Geraldine noted the hub school is still running (in the new build) so the school are supporting school learning, home learning; hub school and staffing/management issues too;
- f. Uniform not currently essential but no weekend or party clothes please!

6. AOB

- a. Kirsty noted charity registration has been on hold but when things do open up again, we need an address to apply for grants and she does not want to use her home address – agreed to use school address as registered address;
- b. Mark Brown chasing a Safer Routes update and also agreed to send updated Environment Warden details to Sandra;
- c. Clothing co-op – gone quiet in the current climate – a request to pop in any good quality, used uniform to keep this moving along.

