

Parent Council Minutes 29th March 2021

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Elaine O'Donnell, Karen Souza, Kirsty Gallen, Emma McLoughlin, Mark Brown, Mandy White, Orla Irwin, Neil Gibson, Stuart Lithgow, Morag Morrison, Jennifer Inglis-Jones, Rita Nogueira, Shabnam Hussain, Katie Campbell

Apologies: Alison Lynas, Charlie Goldsmith,

1. Meeting Minutes

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting and previous minutes were approved. Sandra highlighted that the meeting format has been revised to capture discussion topics in the first half, followed by regular updates with a view to getting the balance right between debate and briefing/updates. We can revise again in future if it is required.

2. Discussion Papers

- a. **The Great Outdoors:** Mandy took the group through plans for the Great Outdoors initiatives and the group present voted on their preferred option. The decision was a landslide for Option 3, which is a proposal to spend a total of £1800 on floor markings and paint to be used by volunteer groups to brighten up the playground areas. The plan is to do this over either a spring break weekend or holiday period and a request for volunteers will go out asap.
- b. Sandra presented the **Spring Newsletter** which received excellent feedback (with specific thanks to Karen). It highlights all the key items the Parent Council are discussing and makes a request for more members and supporters to help get representation from across the school year groups. The school office will send out.
- c. Kirsty highlighted the **Easter Egg competition** and Gordon approved the use of the car park on the weekend to distribute eggs to the lucky winners.
- d. Charlie had sent an advance update on **Tea Towels** whereby forms are with the school and it was agreed to progress at the start of the summer term now all year groups are back. Karen noted a further fundraising idea for the summer term designed to get everyone active and involved ("**Clermiston Walks to the USA in May**" is the working title)! A lively and supportive discussion around the logistics followed with agreement from all to follow up.
- e. Anne and Geraldine confirmed **S1 ties** have been ordered and now received into school for the current p7 group and Anne requested approval to order the **p1 schoolbags** as a welcome for our new wee ones in August – which was duly approved.
- f. **Current issues/questions:** Elaine confirmed **milk money refunds** are in hand and will be processed and communicated in the summer term. Sandra reiterated the need for all parents to report **dog fouling** around school – the more complaints the better to ensure City of Edinburgh Council focus. Likewise, the recurring issue of **irresponsible parking** near school has again raised questions around the need for a lollipop person outside the Munro Centre and Mark has again chased

for a progress report on the raised crossing timetable. Sandra to progress/gather the history of this frustrating issue and follow up with support from Mark.

- g. P7 Leaver Assembly** – Shabnam queried plans given restrictions and Gordon confirmed teachers are in planning for this but noted it is highly unlikely bubbles will be able to mix and so there are plans to ensure class parties, leaver's videos, yearbooks and virtual goodbyes can all happen and that we are in a much better position than we were in 2020. It will look a little different, but they will still get the recognition they deserve. High School visits have been confirmed as being virtual.

3. Regular Updates

- a. HT Report:** Gordon noted some recent **COVID-19 cases** in school which had been dealt with smoothly in line with updated guidelines. Special mention to SFL teacher, Mrs Grieve, but a huge effort from all impacted was appreciated by the school. As yet, there has been no need for school closure, but we do need to be aware this could happen, particularly as improved guidelines mean additional testing takes place, which highlights more asymptomatic cases. **Summer term** plans are underway with aims to get outside more, p7 transition and of course p1 transition. The summer term is also when all staffing plans for the year ahead take place and is an incredibly busy time. **Parent/Teacher consultations** will again take place online. Finally, a refresh has been ongoing with new outdoor equipment, musical instruments, SMART boards, Bluetooth speakers, iPads and robots (☺) in place. The school has had a real refresh.
- b. Treasurer Report:** Rachel had to leave the meeting early, but the report was taken as read and contained within the meeting pack.

4. AOB

- a.** Anne queried if Bike Ability was going ahead in the summer term for p7 pupils and Gordon confirmed a very recent conversation with Rachel, who teaches this and yes, this would go ahead. Excellent quality bikes (donated via the Parent Council and other local initiatives) are available for any pupil without access to their own.