

## Parent Council AGM Minutes 17th May 2021

**Attendees:** Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Karen Souza, Emma McLoughlin, Mark Brown, Mandy White, Orla Irwin, Neil Gibson, Stuart Lithgow, Jennifer Inglis-Jones, Rita Nogueira, Shabnam Hussain, Katie Campbell, Charlie Goldsmith, Mary Bisset, Laura Smith, Fern Findlay-Greene, Hana Barvik

**Apologies:** Alison Lynas, Morag Morrison, Kirsty Gallen

### **1. Welcome and Previous Minutes**

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members which includes representation from p1 which is fantastic. Previous minutes were approved.

### **2. AGM**

- a. **Chair Report:** Sandra noted her annual report, covering a very unusual, busy and happy year on the Parent Council with a number of achievements, not least a solid and engaged membership which enjoys open and productive communication with the school. Our **Clermiston Clothing** group was established to make good use of pre-loved uniform and several excellent fundraisers have taken place across the year (detailed in the report) which have been heavily supported by Karen Souza and her excellent communication skills. Those fundraising initiatives have enabled projects like The Great Outdoors, which is now in full swing to improve the outdoor space, with much more to come. Plans to register as a charity to further increase fundraising opportunities will be progressed in the new school session. Finally, we remain engaged with CEC on our long campaigned for and awaited crossing, which is scheduled for installation this summer.
- b. Rachel presented the **Treasurer's report** for the year, noting a positive balance on which to end the school year.
- c. Jennifer Inglis-Jones was approved as **independent examiner** for the Parent Council accounts.
- d. The following **office bearers** were approved for session 2021/22:
  - a. Chair: Sandra Dargie
  - b. Treasurer: Rachel Liddell
  - c. Secretary/Uniform Rep: Anne Scott
  - d. Head of Communications: Karen Souza
  - e. Head of Fundraising: Kirsty Gallen

### **3. Regular Updates**

- a. **HT Report:** Gordon thanked attendees from the recent **Gardening Day** and has taken the opportunity to discuss this with the children as an aspect of how they can influence and care for their surroundings. As we are only able to operate in very small groups just now, it is a clear example of how a few small things can make a big difference. Gordon noted lots of **class re-organisation** in the year

ahead and is working to arrange the best possible outcome, adding that all staff are involved and things like friendship groups are considered. **Transition for p7s** is well in hand and despite the restrictions a great plan is taking shape to allow class bubble parties, outdoor dancing, picnic in the park and an outdoor education experience at Port Edgar. There will be a virtual assembly which P7 parents will be able to dial into. **Sports day** for the whole school will go ahead in person this year which will operate within class bubbles. Sadly, no parents can attend this year, but we hope next year will be different. Gordon credited all parents and carers for their continued compliance with the restrictions. **P1 transition** is also well in hand with some activities already launched and linking in nicely with CEC plans. **Geraldine and Gordon extended a huge thanks** to the school, parent council and school communities this year for their important supports and inputs.

#### **4. Discussion Papers**

- a. **Around the world fundraiser** has gone fantastically well and on target to achieve our fund goal of £1500. Karen thanked everyone who has taken part and contributed, encouraging everyone to keep the buzz going. Geraldine noted great engagement with the children via class assembly with some nice friendly competition!
- b. Charlie noted **Tea Towel fundraising** plans had been delayed where the company had sent some of the wrong things, but we are engaged with school and starting from p7 down to ensure we capture those upper school groups first. A much-welcomed activity and boost for the funds and the group extended thanks to Charlie for her work on this initiative.
- c. **Gardening day** – Mandy advised that a WhatsApp group is now in place for future days, and it was noted that our social media posts reached over 3000 people in our community and we hope encourages others to participate. Mandy also asked for ideas to be sent to her that the children could contribute to (painting pebbles, etc). A special shout out to Mrs Akhter for her inputs and support. The improvements have been welcomed by the children and quotes from pupils are to be sent to Karen for inclusion in the newsletter.
- d. Mandy advised that the **Playground markings plan** has had a small setback due to the planned supplier but new quotes have been sourced and the new plans were reviewed and approved by the group. Mandy to agree suitable dates with Geraldine and Gordon.
- e. **P1 Bags** have been received into school for the 2021/22 intake, but 2020/21 parents advised their children had not received their bags. Gordon to check out and solve the mystery to ensure those make it home by end of term.
- f. **Road improvement plans** were reviewed by the group and due summer 2021. Sandra to keep up pressure on CEC and advise of any date slippage issues. It was agreed that we would check on the impact of the road crossing improvements before funding signage. It is also hoped our JRSOs can resume duties in the new school year when it's hoped restrictions allow for these important and engaging activities.

- g. **Parental engagement questionnaire** had noted questions around both communication and extra-curricular clubs. It was agreed that both school and parent council share lots but there is always room for more. Gordon noted good engagement with both school website and Twitter feed. Geraldine noted that cross year groups and Active School clubs had been curtailed since March 2020 but Clermiston have always been champions of these and hoped more could resume in August, including our school choir. It was agreed feedback from the parental engagement questions would be included in the next newsletter.

#### 5. **AOB**

- a. Katie noted she plans to arrange **welcome groups** again for the first day of the 2021/22 session (within guidelines) and would form a group offline to manage this lovely activity to welcome children into school. Geraldine and Gordon to give green light to any plans as soon as they can.
- b. **Lagganlia** is looking likely to go ahead for the incoming P7s which is fantastic news.
- c. Warm thanks and good wishes extended to **Orla Irwin** who is leaving the Parent Council after many years of support and contributions.