

## Clermiston Parent Council AGM Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Attendees:** Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Karen Souza, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Mandy White, Emma McLoughlin, Stuart Lithgow, Fern Findlay-Greene, Kirsty Gallen, Neil Gibson, Mark Brown, Morag Morrison, Katie Campbell, Shabnam Hussain, Gaynor Thompson, Mary Bisset, Rita Nogueira, Matthew McLachlan – Active Schools Coordinator (part)

**Apologies:** Charlie Goldsmith, Rachael Lynch, Laura Smith

### **1. Welcome and updates**

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members. Previous minutes were accepted.

### **2. Active Schools Discussion – Matthew McLachlan**

Sandra welcomed Mattie, who had been invited to provide an **update on the status of Active Schools offering** for the cluster and to help provide guidance where possible and whilst funding is not yet clear at council level. Covid severely impacted the excellent Active Schools classes on offer prior to 2020 and then a change of funding at Sports Scotland has now hampered classes getting fully back up and running since summer 2021. **Sports Scotland would like the offering to be volunteer led**, which had been the case in other areas, but this was not the approach taken in Edinburgh before 2020. This is currently being discussed and debated at Edinburgh Council (update due 1<sup>st</sup> March), but in the meantime, children are receiving hardly an extra -curricular activities via this route.

Mattie is keen to support schools and parent councils in implementing this volunteer model and noted activities for this term are due for publication this week. A combination of volunteer and paid activities can be offered, but the payment must go via school. One of the challenges is that, given Covid impacts, many of the paid coaches have moved on to find other work and so it is work in progress to build that back up. **Mattie can support training opportunities for parent and carer volunteers.**

**Parents at the meeting noted real frustration with the approach** being taken by Sports Scotland, which has left the children at the school with a fraction of the choices they had previously. Mattie thought that the **impact was being monitored** at council level to gauge success or otherwise of this model because he has to report volunteer class numbers into the process. It was not clear if classes which end up being paid for will be taken into this monitoring.

**Looking ahead to what can be done in the meantime**, Mattie is keen to engage with all parents to take ideas forward, support volunteers and try to make the model a success. Some classes (eg netball) have been volunteer led before. Senior pupils (eg from RHS) can support running of classes but cannot be coaches and cluster schools may be able to work together to develop an offering and share resource.

**The Parent Council thanked Mattie** for his help and support and agreed to take away ideas (eg football team) for consideration with interested parents.

### 3. Regular updates

- a. **Treasurer report:** Fern presented the report as read and advised that online banking is now in place.
- b. **HT Report:** Gordon updated on the following:
  - i. **Covid restrictions** mean that non-essential visitors are still not allowed in school and that they are enforcing general rules and are monitoring in case changes are required. Classes cannot yet be mixed other than for support groups and the dining hall is also in use.
  - ii. The application has not yet gone in for the **stage**, but the estates team have been written to, to ensure no conflicts with any plans. Estimates are coming in at between £2k-£4k and there will also be an ongoing upkeep commitment. We are edging closer to application.....
  - iii. Parents regularly ask about **school photographs**, and whilst no commitment can be made yet, Gordon is hopeful, and the team will be as creative as possible to try to make this happen.
  - iv. On **P7 transition**, it was noted that the high school team are planning for parallel, that is to be able to do physical or virtual transition and most likely a combination of both, where some of the virtual activities have been incredibly successful and thus retained. A cluster transition teacher is being appointed who will work across all 5 schools.
  - v. The city-wide **Empowering learning** project is underway, much enhancing the digital provision covering all aspects from physical kit to improved Wi-Fi, application management and tools. Parents will be supported as this is rolled out.

### 4. Discussion Papers and Updates

- a. Neil noted that **the new bikes** had been secured and delivered
- b. The **fundraising efforts** last term (crazy hair day, Christmas cards, Christmas competition raised a fantastic £2,000+. The Parent Council extended huge thanks to Mhairi in the office for all her help and support and to staff for the excellent hamper. Plans for this year are to be discussed by a newly set up **Fundraising Committee** led by Kirsty Gallen – please contact Kirsty if you'd like to be involved!
- c. Stuart thanked the Parent Council and all parents at school for supporting the **P5 enterprise** which raised a whopping £585 profit to be shared out amongst 4 charities selected by the children.
- d. It was noted that bringing out our **Lollipop People** again has helped to refocus children and (some) parents on **road safety around school** in the morning and Morag, Stuart, Sandra and Neil will lead organization of a rota to make this as effective and impactful as we can this term. It was agreed that these bollards are a good visible solution for this term whilst we await a permanent solution – though it was noted that when the road is clearer of parked cars, speed becomes an issue and again a discussion ensued about various near misses outside school and multiple examples of unsafe driving

and parking around school already this term. Mark noted that the update from Council is works are out to tender just now and that **Easter holidays 2022 remain the target** for the road works to be done.

- e. Mark confirmed that he is advised the external works for the **fence to be replaced** has been quoted and accepted and that we can expect works to be carried out in **summer 2022**.

#### 5. Natural environment projects

- a. Mandy advised that we wait for the fence replacement in summer before replanting the trees already secured and could then request more from the Woodland Trust.
- b. In the meantime, the school had requested trees for the P1s per their previous request but there had, as yet been no reply from the council and so the Parent Council agreed to go ahead and buy these.
- c. Sandra has provided an up-to-date contact at **Eco Schools** to support the school application – this is a school led initiative by design, but the Parent Council noted they can support in any way the school would like. We are all keen to secure that green flag!
- d. Anne to revert on ideas the Parent Council can support on bees at the next meeting, given Covid means external visitors are not yet allowed in school.

#### 6. Spring / summer plans

- a. Emma to kick off (no pun intended) plans to get a **football team** up and running and Gordon offered school support in gathering all the data to gauge interest. All the necessary kit, goalposts, etc, are already available at school.
- b. The next **gardening and painting** day with our **Great Outdoors Team** is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Plans are underway with school about areas of focus – let Mandy know if you would like added to the WhatsApp group.
- c. Mandy offering **large tyres for climbing, planting**, etc. Gordon/Geraldine to advise where and how many!

#### 7. AOB

The next meeting is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm on MS Teams