

Clermiston Parent Council AGM Minutes – 7th March 2022

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Karen Souza, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Mandy White, Emma McLoughlin, Stuart Lithgow, Fern Findlay-Greene, Kirsty Gallen, Neil Gibson, Morag Morrison, Katie Campbell, Shabnam Hussain, Mary Bisset, Rita Nogueira, Charlie Goldsmith, Eric Jackson, Laura Smith, Katy Templeton, Alison Lynas

Apologies: Rachel Liddell, Rachael Lynch, Mark Brown, Jennifer Inglis Jones

1. Welcome and updates

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Previous minutes were accepted.

2. Discussion Papers

- a. **PC Recruitment** – Katie and Karen are putting a video together to advertise what we do, to attract new members to the Parent Council after summer. All photo's, quotes, etc to them in the first instance please to let them work their magic.
- b. **Natural environment projects:**
 - i. **P1 trees** – funding was agreed for 4 fruit trees, now planted and Mrs Templeton confirmed the P1s are doing a great job looking after them.
 - ii. **Gardening day** – the group discussed and agreed plans for the day in March to complete the painting and garden tidy up / improvements following a hugely successful day earlier in March. Contact to be made with Wildlife Rangers so that we can work together on outdoor space improvements.
 - iii. **Positivity Pebbles** – Note to go out via Parent Pay in the next few weeks. All children will get a chance to participate if they wish to (it's voluntary) and they will go into the art deco garden once finished.
- c. **Recycling projects:**
 - i. **Milk cartons** – The group agreed to fund the request from Mrs Templeton to join the Tetra Pak milk carton recycling scheme for this year – the cost is £110 per school – and we can also add juice cartons to this. Arrangements have been made for children in school to participate in the collection / bagging up of cartons. Other cluster schools are participating, and collections are made fortnightly.
 - ii. **Pen recycling** – used to be done in school pre pandemic – boxes were in each classroom and there was a collection point at Edinburgh Academy. Gordon to check status. Similarly, crisp packet schemes were used before (noted collections at Trinity, Wardie, Boroughmuir). School to let the Parent Council know if we can help support these initiatives in any way.

- d. **Football team** – Great interest from the children via the recent survey and we have enough interest to run 2 teams (a 4/5 and 6/7). Emma has found a coach who works with other schools and can arrange the necessary safety checks, logistics, arrange friendly matches, etc. We do need more volunteers to be able to support this. The Parent Council agreed to fund this (£700) for the summer term and Emma to follow up with Mattie at Active Schools for support. It was agreed to support this as Football Skills with a fun element and still a chance to play friendly matches, which the children are very keen on.
- e. **Roads and Parking** – Sandra had been in touch with Mark Brown, who confirmed that the road works will not be completed in April as hoped and are to be postponed once again. 74 parents had completed the recent survey with 25 keen to have a meeting to express views and be heard. Eric Jackson from the Community Council offered to support this meeting – date to be confirmed. The Parent Council are frustrated by the continued delays but agreed to persist with our bollards which does help on the days they are out, and to keep working with the school to support their messaging.
- f. **Parking bollard figures** – the mini rota is working well, and we received some additional volunteer names to help, via the survey. Stuart to investigate whether we can do other days and Mrs Templeton also thought she might be able to help, which would allow us to do an additional day.

Action: SL/KT to follow up and advise.

3. **Regular updates**

- a. **Treasurer report:** Fern presented the report and noted £6,800 available. Anne noted a request coming in April for S1 ties and would advise cost asap. Jennifer will be required to do an independent check on the accounts before the AGM in May.
- b. **HT Report:** Gordon updated on the following:
 - i. **School photo's** will be able to happen in the summer term (class and sibling) if restrictions continue to ease as planned.
 - ii. **The library** is back up and running and is undergoing a refresh as well as system change. Book cupboards are back which offer books for children to borrow or keep and increases access to books for all children in school. Donations are welcome – see Suzanne Gilhooley who leads this.
 - iii. **Trips** becoming more allowable – private coaches still preferred to public transport for now but again, working to make as much possible for the children as we can. **Walking trips** can happen and parent

volunteers will again be able to get involved – we will see more of this in the summer term as limits are raised. 2 classes can now use the hall and school will continue to monitor as we are still seeing Covid cases, and it continues to be an issue across the city schools.

- iv. **Returning to normal - Clubs and choir** are back on. **Parent Consultations** will remain online for now. **Empowered learning** roll out is going well across school and reminders are there to take regular screen breaks and keep safe online. Hopeful of a **leavers dance and assembly** for our P7s. **Transition Tuesdays** have started for that group too and hopeful of some in person aspects this year.
- v. Gordon and Geraldine thanked the Parent Council for all the work done in the garden and playground which is looking great. Further improvements coming as he confirmed the **school stage** application can go ahead and we now just need to provide size / measurements to firm up quote – looking like £2-3k.
- vi. Emma asked about **mobile phone policy** – which is that these are handed in at the start of the school day and handed back at the end. Some mixed messages from the children and Gordon to reiterate.

4. Fundraising plans:

- a. **Rag bin** clear out planned for week beginning 28th March – Kirsty to confirm dates and noted bags will be sent home with each child. The Parent Council receives funding from this scheme and it's also a useful way to recycle unwanted clothing.
- b. Planning to do a fun, free event through the Facebook page around **Easter**.
- c. Fun run / fancy dress **fundraiser** planned for summer term
- d. We have two parent teams running the **EMF in May** to raise money for the Parent Council – please support them!
- e. Hopeful of a **summer fayre** – a watching brief – and will confirm in May what is possible and will use our great connections with local business and shops who are always so supportive of our efforts.

5. AOB

- a. Anne noted that **local elections** are taking place in May – and that whoever you vote for, to please try to vote because the discussions that we all have at these meetings on a regular basis are hugely impacted by the decision makers in the City Chambers.
- b. Eric Jackson would welcome new members and supports to the **Community Council**, which is held on the 2nd Monday of every month at St Andrews Church.
- c. We are hopeful of a **Parent Council social** in June – start looking for free dates in your diaries! Gordon hoping for a Grassmarket pub crawl....you have been warned!

The next meeting and AGM is on Monday 9th May at 6.30pm on MS Teams.