

## Parent Council Minutes: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Present: Gordon McIntyre, Karen Souza, Fern Findlay Greene, Kirsty Gallen, Stuart Lithgow, Sandra Dargie, Morag Morrison, Emma McLoughlin, Suzanne Gilhooley, Deborah Brown, Mandy White, Rachel Liddell, Anne Scott, Marian Cruikshank, Mary Bisset, Laura Smith

Apologies: Euan Hyslop, Alison Lynas, Ed Thornley, Eric Jackson, Geraldine Forsyth, Charlie Goldsmith

### 1. Fundraising Update

- a. Kirsty updated on the **Christmas Fayre** plans – a great team of volunteers lined up but could use more so please let her know if you can help on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December or with setting up on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Raffle tickets are going out this week – please return any unused or unsold so that we can pass on.
  - We'll see the return of the egg box competition.
  - Independent stall holders are coming along – there are craft stalls, and they donate to school.
  - Food van will also be there.
  - Kirsty to follow up any questions with Gordon
- b. **Christmas cards** – will be distributed at the fayre on the 10<sup>th</sup> – it's been quite a quick turnaround this year, so some lessons learned for next year. Also, this is Charlie's last year – huge thanks to Charlie for all her work on this over the years. We'll need someone to pick this up next year so please raise your hand if you'd like to help.
- c. **Rag bag** – clear out this Friday reminder – this is a great fundraiser for the school – open to staff too!
- d. Communication to go out re **Easy Fundraising** to give our funds an easy boost over the Christmas period.
- e. **Christmas Jumper day**. Gordon confirmed we usually do this – Mrs Henderson and Mrs Gilhooley have discussed it recently and some communication to go out on this, including encouraging people bring any others in to swap and pass on before the day... the boutique is a perfect place to facilitate this swap.

### 2. Newsletter

- Draft with the meeting pack – **thanks extended to Karen for her design skills**. Really busy term and the team have tried hard to capture all of the things going on. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to these initiatives.
- The newsletter includes a summary of the 3 group initiatives held in school – **Equalities and Equities, Attendance Strategy and Stay and Explore** groups whereby groups of teachers, parents and children share ideas and exchange views on set topics. Feedback was shared from Alison and Karen who, amongst others, have found this a great experience and want to carry on the conversation.
- Sandra welcomed any comments on the groups or newsletter comments asap before we share with the school community.

### 3. Bikes

- Sandra and Mandy met with Stuart Lithgow – an **inventory has been created** and an offer to support keeping bikes maintained extended. Regarding the proposed crowdfunder, we have decided not to do at this stage as we still have enough bikes for now (22). We do need another storage place for bikes in the longer term but there's lots of planning involved with that. Noted that the bikes are currently secure.
- Euan Hyslop has also put in a motion to the Transport and Environment Committee for January / February regarding **safe storage** in schools across the city.

### 4. The Great Outdoors

- Mandy updated that the team have made the **hedge** saplings safe. Thanks to the top team of gardeners and Mrs Akhtar for all their work and help.
- Mary shared an update regarding **Divide and Conquer** – all planter boxes outside P1 have been allocated and some are already being cared for. Also, the tyres are looking better as some have been attended to – although the squirrels are having some fun so some ongoing maintenance to do! Mini stone platters outside of p2 also been allocated. Great take up of this initiative given the time of year and it was noted that people are using their own time and resources to do this for our school which is amazing – thank you!

### 5. Crossing Patrol Vacancy and Road Safety Around School

- Noted that the vacancy has not yet been filled for the Drumbrae crossing but will be advertised again in January. Laura suggested adding a poster into the Munro Centre given the community clubs that go on there. Also think of advertising in the Drumbrae Library and local Church groups, Tesco Corstorphine Tesco, D Mains, Caffee Nero, etc.
- **JRSOs / Community Police / Bollards** - Laura Hamilton-Irvine is coordinating Pupil Voice Group and will add a Wednesday to Stuart Lithgow's Monday group and another teaching colleague to do Fridays.
- **Local police officer** Karen Mackenzie to join our JRSOs on certain dates so great coordinated effort going on. A volunteer helps put the "wee people" away on a Monday so similar welcome on the other days. Focus ongoing on encouraging children to walk, bike and scoot to school!
- **Wee People Bollards** – 4 volunteers currently rotate putting these away on a Monday and will need to extend the group of volunteers for other days. Huge thank you to the current group who just quietly get on with it. Parents dropping children off are to be asked if they can also help. All done by 9am so a nice short, easy job. Laura to share dates so that we can be clear on the ask for parents and get a request out.

### 6. Requests for Funding

- Mandy has been discussing with **nursery** if any requests and they have requested 40 high vis vests for walks, plus some fairy items for the garden. This costs £80. Marian advised re high vis vests as she has seen these donated by Specsavers in the past – will be investigated.

- Suzanne asked about potential **requests from the re-established Pupil Voice Groups** – for example the wildlife garden group are creating a trail – perhaps budget might be requested for that.
- General discussion followed regarding allocating funds:
  - Sandra suggesting that we may want to put a cap on the spend and focus on items which benefit the whole school.
  - Deborah suggested that for nursery – could we do a parent appeal? Tables, easels, book browsers, etc, if those are required.
  - Karen suggesting specific items can be fundraised for – more specific and a better outcome as people more engaged for targeted things.
  - There will be more discussion at our meeting in January regarding how we want to focus spending into next year. We will look at previously agreed funding and what we want to take forward or change alongside any new wish lists from school. May also revisit charity status as this would open up other avenues of fundraising / access to other funds and matching. Noted that this needs treasurer and trustee commitment.

## 7. Treasurer report

- If going for **charity status**, we will need to plan budgets and spending and if anything new comes along we can organise a fundraiser. Keen to encourage the children to input ideas.
- Fern advised that since the report was issued, there have been a few updates. The cheque from Stikins gone in and Christmas Fayre expenses have gone out - **£3,700 balance**. Rag bag and fayre fundraisers are coming up to top up these funds into next year.

## 8. Headteacher report

- Gordon is now back full time in school – Geraldine reduced her hours and Suzanne is Acting Depute...together, Suzanne and Geraldine make up the depute role, with some mid-week overlap.
- So far, the **parent council subsidy** this year has been used for the coach for inter scholastics at Meadowbank. P6/7s had a great time – went with PE specialist. Also paid for P5a/c buses to Holyrood Palace. More trips planned next year.
- **Christmas plans** – p1/2 Christmas show, nursery Christmas show planned – 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> December for p1/2 and 14<sup>th</sup> for the nursery. Information going out asap. Also noted that classes are able to have hall Christmas parties and Santa is coming! The Lyceum dates are still up in the air – to be confirmed. Christmas banner day – mixed groups – making banners for the hall. Christmas trees ordered. Last day – finish will be 1pm to allow lunch at school.
- **Stage and decking** – the wood is here! The plan is for this to be complete by Christmas.
- Pupil Voice Groups are up and running – run from p1 to p7. Great to have these back and lovely interaction between the year groups. Mrs Heffill has done most of the heavy lifting here. These groups may generate some ask for funding in the new year.
- **Strike information** – scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November. School and nursery closed – information coming out tomorrow to parents. Lunches provided the day before for those children who quality/require them. No online learning. Gordon encouraged any questions.
- Whole school show planned for March 2023.
- **Swimming competition / trials** – Rachel asking if Clermiston can take part? Letters came out for p7s for trials for the Drumbrae Swimming Gala last week, and **Gordon will follow up**.

## **AOB**

- Cllr Euan Hyslop advised in advance of the meeting that **the roadworks** is sitting as due for completion at Easter 2023
- **Holes in the field** – Emma advised that the holes keep reappearing and it's impacting the football team plans. **Gordon to follow up with the janitor.**