

Parent Council Minutes: Monday 6th March 2023

Present: Sandra Dargie, Gordon McIntyre, Fern Findlay Greene, Stuart Lithgow, Anne Scott, Mandy White, Alison Lynas, Angie Millar, Cllr Euan Hyslop, Marian Cruikshank, Suzanne Gilhooley, Emma McLoughlin, Roshni Main, Rachel Liddell, Geraldine Forsyth

Apologies: Laura Smith, Kirsty Gallen, Karen Souza

1. Previous Minutes

- a. Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting and previous minutes were approved.

2. Regular Updates

- a. **Treasurer report** – Fern noted that the bank account is sitting with over £7k. The Parent Council have bought some armchairs for the school library and a request had also come in for the first aid kit for the football team. Have previously agreed to help fund the Buttercup Farmers veg patch – billing still pending.

The Funding strategy was approved. This means we will keep a set amount available to fund annual requirements. This is approx. £4k. Where possible all funds raised in this year, will be spent in that school year. Money has also been put aside this year for the school library.

Charity registration – paperwork has gone round the parent council for approval, and we have 3 volunteers to go ahead and register. Put to a vote to all attendees and this was unanimously agreed by all voting members present (8). Fern will contact all volunteers to make progress and will report back at the AGM.

- b. **Headteacher report** – Gordon updated on a **number of trips** so far this school year which have been funded / part funded by the parent council. P5s have attended Holyrood Palace. P6s and 7s went to interscholastic competition and P7s went to the Risk Factory. P6s and 7s went to cross country. P6s also went to Victorian Schoolroom. Many, many more trips are coming up across a number of year groups. Over £1k spent so far from the parent council to support these trips. School is using coaches and public transport too where possible...plans to use that public transport resource more where logistics allow it.

Gordon confirmed that school is in a **good position re iPads** – one of the first clusters to benefit from this and of huge benefits to the classes. Good allocation across the year groups (1:1 in p6/7 and 5 per class for other classes).

Also looking at prop stores to **enhance use of stage**. This will include costumes (scarves, hats, etc). Looked at a **stage backdrop** – unfortunately willow won't work in that location, but Gus has other ideas that can be explored. Gordon to also revert on **decking timescales**. Ordered in anti-slip coating and this has started to be applied by the school janitor. More to do and help would be appreciated – Sandra asked him to let us know when we can help. **Astroturf** help also appreciated for that small area next to the HT office.

School show information has gone out today. No charge – allocated 2 per family. Mindful that there's a mixture of family set ups and the communications are meant to reflect that. Any questions most welcome to school who will try very hard to accommodate. P2 parents asking about the evening show and HT confirmed that it can be arranged for younger children to leave early if they wish to.

No final date for **sports day yet** – school will let parents and carers know asap.

Big Walk and Wheel – school likes the idea but the dates clash with the whole school show – will look into this for next year or do our own version of this at another time.

- c. **CEC Update** – Euan reported no major updates. Hoping to have confirmation at our next meeting re Easter holiday schedule for the road crossing improvements but does not have this as yet. Noted that Clermiston Park meeting was held – Mandy and Euan both attended. A local parent arranged this – open forum about the park to discuss problems but also about the future and potential plans to start a Friends of the Park group. Great focused discussion. Next meeting is at The Hub on 28th March. Check out the school Facebook page for details and updates.

3. Discussion papers

- a. **Library update** – Sandra thanked those that came to support setting up and stock the library. Suzanne delighted and grateful for the help and to let us know if she needs any more resources.
- b. **Gardening plans** – planning another day towards the end of March. Painting refresh to be done as well. Let us know if any specific jobs school would like us to do. Suzanne could use some help to trim the willow if available. Mandy will encourage nursery parents to help if possible – time and date to be agreed.
- c. **PC email problem** – Currently we are blocked out of our PC email account which is a mystery. Not massively used but we do use it as one medium to support our communications. Jon Lofthouse has been helping and a support ticket is open with Microsoft. To be followed up and please be aware / let people know to use alternatives. Sandra to make parents aware via Facebook.
- d. **Football training and football teams update** – Emma advised P5 and P7 teams going strong and just started a p4 team. Training available for any child who wants to do it, they don't have to be in a team. Going really well and the children are really enjoying it. No current issues with the pitch!
- e. **Teracycle** – Emma has been approached by other parents in the school. Advised that some are offering to take these. Would like to start with toothpaste tubes which are very small. Could the pupil environment team set this up. Gordon thought this was a good idea and Emma to email details.
- f. **New AGM date** needed – agreed this would be 15th May. Sandra to advise if online or in person with the parent council group.

4. Fundraising

Kirsty happy to help with charity application. Online fundraising meeting on 14th March at 7pm – let her know if you'd like to join. She needs more people to join so please help if you can.

5. AOB

- a. Mandy raised on behalf of another parent that she would like the school uniform to incorporate tartan. Gordon to consider – it is not straightforward but will certainly be followed up.
- b. Rachel followed up on the available spend point and wondered if we could allocate to the P7 leavers for their leaving celebration, if some capacity to do that. Geraldine to advise if some additional support for costs would help.
- c. Marian wanted confirmation that the rag bin has been emptied – money received so we believe it has.

Next meeting is Monday 15th May at 6.30pm.