

# CLERMISTON PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Time:** 18:30 – 20:30

**Present:** Sandra Dargie (Chair) Sarah Hall (Minutes), Marian Cruikshank, Suzanne Gilhooley, Stuart Lithgow, Gordon McIntyre, Laura Perry, Mary Bisset, Karolina Towers, Fern Findlay-Greene, Mandy White

**Apologies:** Ann Scott, Emma McLoughlin, Alison Lynas, Laura Smith, Euan Hyslop

## 1: Welcome (Sandra)

Sandra wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the meeting. Sandra also thanked and confirmed that Sarah Hall would be taking the minutes.

## 2: Discussion Papers

**a) Christmas Fair & Fundraising 2023** – Update & totals (Mandy & Fern): Mandy thanked all the volunteers, the day was a *success*, had great energy and is an amazing event to have for the community.

Fern confirmed the total raised for the day and the Christmas cards was £5,215.01.

Sandra conveyed special thanks to Stuart Lithgow and Sam Dougan. Sandra also advised that she will not be taking the lead for the Christmas Fair this year.

**b) Agreed spending updates Dec 23 – Christmas Jumper Day items (Santa hats/ festive headbands/ hats/ gloves), Nursery storytelling show (Sandra):** Mrs Heffill has requested £100 for the Jumpers. £300 is also needed for the Nursery storytelling show. Suzanne advised that they are waiting to hear back from the storytelling people, but the event will hopefully be taking place in February.

Fern updated that there is £11,251.84 in the fund. The coaches, booked to transport the children to the Winter show, still needs to be deducted from this total.

**c) Spending suggestions for 2024 – AstroTurf, pond re-lining, PC-Led sport activity, playground power washing, scooter mushrooms etc (Sandra):** Sandra asked all for ideas of ways to spend the funds.

Gordon firstly requested money for school trips where all classes get at least 1 educational trip per year. Sandra agreed that the trips are a good way to spend funds, however, there needs to be reassurance that all year groups get a trip as unfortunately last year one year group missed out. Stuart advised that he is aware of this shortfall, and that this particular year group would receive 2 trips this year. Fern advised that the funds could stretch to £4,000.00 this year.

Mandy updated that she had received numerous quotes regarding Astroturf. The total being £300,000.00. This unfortunately being out of reach for the school budget.

Re-lining the pond was also suggested, which will cost around £1,000.00.

Sandra raised the option of a possible sports led activity. This was discussed in some detail and options, such as dance, expressive art, hockey or any activity that is led by an independent person or organisation, would be fine. Sandra agreed to put together a poster and would circulate this via the WhatsApp groups.

Power-washing the playground and additional scooter mushrooms were also mentioned as options.

Laura suggested using some money to invest in new reading books for the library as some were notably quite old. This was discussed in detail and agreed that this was a good idea. Gordon also suggested to start using the `Book Houses` which are located throughout the school where books are donated and can be borrowed or kept. Suzanne will work with the parent council on this.

Sandra also suggested that a team from the Parent Council could help clean up the library.

**d) Ice-skating Update (Angie):** Angie informed that Murrayfield have free sessions twice per year in February and after Easter break co-ordinated by 'Active Schools.' There are a total of 35 skating aids. This was discussed and agreed that this would be a great idea- possibly for the P3s as starting point. Angie to follow up.

**e) Spring Garden Day Suggestion (Mandy):** Mandy suggested an event where pupils can have a competition to design and paint a bench. This was discussed and agreed. Related designs will be approved by Gordon.

A family day of gardening (i.e. weeding, planting flowers, etc) and litter picking was also raised as a possible event idea.

Mandy advised that around £200.00 would be required to facilitate the above.

### **3: Regular Updates**

**a) Treasurer Report (see attached Treasurer Report) (Fern):** Fern advised that the coaches for both the 'Theatre Trip' and the 'Nursery Show' still need to be paid for. The community lottery was also discussed and agreed that the Parent Council would join this. Information will be circulated via social media regarding the community lottery.

Fern informed that she will unfortunately be standing down as the Parent Council Treasurer. She will remain in post until the AGM. Sandra expressed her sincere thanks for all her hard work and dedication shown during her time in this post.

The position of Treasurer will be advertised shortly. Any interest in this post should be directed to either Sandra or Fern for more information.

**b) Headteacher Report (HT is additionally asked to comment on the following):**

- Any staff requests for funding
- Staff requests for PC support
- Janitor update
- P7 lunches query – unfulfilled orders, band-swapping
- Staff Lagganlia lead

Gordon updated to say that he is waiting to hear back about the new janitor position; this new janitorial position will be permanent.

Sandra was contacted by a P7 parent whose child did not receive their pre-ordered food. It was highlighted therefore that there may have been a shortage that day. Parents are reminded to ensure completion of their online pre-orders, to ensure there is enough for each pupil.

Some of the P7s have also been swapping bands. Gordon noted that he could mention that bands should not be swapped. Gordon also noted that it is difficult to enforce this.

Laura raised the question of the portion sizes. Likewise Gordon advised that he could obtain the nutritional information, but obtaining pictures might not be possible.

The staff leads for the Lagganlia trip will be Ms Haxton.

Gordon confirmed that Ms Gilhooley is currently the Depute head Monday – Thursday. The maternity cover for Principal Teacher will be confirmed shortly.

Gordon also advised that the full and part time PSA positions have been filled. They are now just waiting on paperwork.

#### **4. Fundraising Suggestions and plans for Spring/ Summer '24**

**a) Community Lottery (Fern):** This will be launched soon. Sandra to speak with Karen and launch via Facebook and ParentPay

**b) Trolley Tokens (Marian):** Marian advised that she is currently not able to take the lead on this. It was discussed and decided that due to the lack of profit, this idea would be put on hold.

#### **5. A.O.B**

Sarah raised concerns regarding the lack of suitable access for those with a disability, making it near impossible for a wheelchair user to gain access to the school. This was discussed and Gordon advised that there was funding in place, however this was unfortunately removed by the council. He advised that Sarah should contact City of Edinburgh Council directly to raise her concerns. Euan Hyslop could also be emailed regarding this issue.

#### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Online, MS Teams)