

# CLERMISTON PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

**Date: Monday 11th September 2023**

**Time: 18:30**

**Present:** Sandra Dargie (Chair) Sarah Hall (Minutes), Suzanne Gilhooley, Gordon McIntyre, Marian Cruickshank, Mary Bisset, Karen Souza, Kirsty Gallen, Geraldine Forsyth, Nusrat, Anne Scott, Alison Lynas, Ruaa Rohan, Shabnam Hussain, Camille, Karolina Towers, Angie Millar, Laura, Emma McLoughlin, Fern Findlay-Greene, Mandy White, Bryan Mackie

**Apologies:** Rachel Liddell, Stuart Lithgow, Rachel Lynch, Morag Morrison, Laura Smith

## 1: Welcome (Sandra)

- a) Sandra welcomed all to the meeting.
- b) Sandra thanked and confirmed that Sarah Hall would be taking the minutes.

## 2: Discussion Papers

- a) **Charity Status Update (Fern):** Fern confirmed that as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 Clermiston Primary Parent Council is an official charity. Sandra thanked Fern and Kirsty for all their hard work and encouraged all to put on Social media and asked if this could be mentioned on Parent pay.

The benefits of having a charity status were discussed such as having local companies donate time for school improvement projects and sponsor school events.

- b) **Connecting families to year group WhatsApp & FB groups (Sandra):** Sandra relayed that the groups were working well and encouraged all parents to share with others. If any new parent needs added to a group please contact the Parent Council.
- c) **Football update & funding request (Emma/ Morag):** Emma informed that the P4-P7 groups are running very well and if any children are interested they should contact Emma. Football coaching is open to both boys and girls.

Danny Stein has requested 5 new balls at a cost of £35. This was voted on and agreed that these be purchased. **Action: £35 approved funding**

Emma raised concerns of the quality of the pitch due to foxes. This was discussed in detail and Gordon confirmed that numerous things had been done to try and deter the fox(es) and this is a continued area of investigation.

- d) **Gardening update & Stage enhancement funding request (Mandy):** Mandy circulated an example of the stage design to be created by the gardening team in the playground. The project in total will cost £600. This was voted on and all agreed. The project will commence on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September between 10am – 12pm. **Action: £600 approved funding**

Concerns were raised of the amount of litter found in the playground. Gordon advised that the new bins were specifically designed so litter would not fall out. This will be monitored.

- e) **Road Improvement works update and further issues (Bryan):** Bryan updated that Parkgrove Street and Place were fixed over the summer. There are still issues around road safety and parking around the school. This was discussed in detail and agreed that Bryan would check all entrances to the school and confer with Cllr Hislop on how best to tackle this going forward. **Action: Bryan and Cllr Hislop**

- f) **Scooter Parking update & funding request (Karen):** Karen raised the matter of adding more scooter spaces (mushrooms) around the school. This was discussed along with the possibility of also adding more bike racks. This could possibly be funded by Edinburgh Council, if not the Parent Council could fund. Gordon agreed to do some research to find out if the Council would fund these.  
**Action: Gordon McIntyre**
- g) **Parental Request for Lagganlia 2024 subsidy (Sandra):** Sandra informed that a parent of twins had been in contact to request help with funding next year's Lagganlia trip. Geraldine advised that no child should do without and that there are trusts to help with funding; any concerned parent should contact the school. **Action: Sandra to advise parent to contact Geraldine**
- Fern also suggested that children could have a stall at the Christmas market to help with funding the trip.
- h) **Mrs Labate request for PC assistance (Sandra):** Sandra asked if a reminder could be sent out via ParentPay to advise parents to book school lunches after the holiday.  
**Action: Karen to put out social media reminder, plus WhatsApp year-group reminders**
- i) **Uniform Boutique/ Lost Property Update (Mandy):** Mandy updated that the boutique is fully stocked, and the system is popular. Further donations are not needed at present due to lack of storage. In regard to lost property, it was relayed that all student clothing be labelled with name and class.

### 3: Regular Updates

- a) **Treasurer Report (see attached Treasurer Report) (Fern):** Fern updated there is £6,870.96 in the fund. Geraldine informed that the Parent Council will shortly receive an invoice for the Lagganlia drummer.
- b) **Headteacher Report (HT is additionally asked to comment on the following):**
- More notice for events such as 'Meet the Teacher' for working parents
  - Will all classes be attending a theatre show at Christmas (would PC funding help?)

Gordon started with a staffing update to confirm that after 36 years Geraldine will be retiring in October. He thanked her profusely for all her help, hard work and support.

Dana Henderson has a secondment until next summer and Mrs Heffill is going on maternity leave at Christmas.

Gordon update on School Improvement Plan: we need to celebrate achievements in literacy, numeracy, health & wellbeing and attendance. He expressed the need to advise parents of the importance of attendance and to not book holidays outside the school holidays, and stressed that a Friday at school is just as important as the others. Additionally, it was confirmed if a child is borderline sick, please send them in.

In regard to giving notice of events, Gordon informed that he will strive to give as much notice as possible; and in addition the school has events at different times to help working parents attend whenever possible.

The Christmas show this year is 'The Snow Queen' taking place at the Lyceum Theatre on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Gordon is awaiting confirmation of costs from the theatre, where further information will be shared.

Fern asked if there was any update on the Unison Strike due to take place in September? Gordon informed that no further information has been received to date but the school will be shut on those dates if the strikes do go ahead and children will be supplied with home learning.

Mary raised the issue of the broken door (primary 4 entrance/exit). Gordon advised that the issue is in hand, and hopefully this will be fixed soon.

Bryan asked if the school had RAAC concrete. Gordon reassured all that the school had recently undergone a refurb whereupon no RAAC concrete was found.

- c) **CEC Update (Euan Hyslop) (Cllr Hyslop is asked to comment on the following):**
- Road/ traffic issues – Parkgrove St & Parkgrove Pl/ Drum Brae North & Parkgrove Dr)
  - Bike storage for schools

Euan will chat with Bryan regarding the Road/ traffic concerns. Euan also advised that he is happy to talk with any parent with concerns. **Action: Euan & Bryan**

Euan informed that he is now also on the Education Committee with the Council.

With regard to bike storage, Euan requested this matter be postponed until November where further information can be relayed.

#### 4. Fundraising

- a) **Tesco tokens Suggestion (Fern):** Fern proposed that as the Parent Council now has charitable status we can join the Tesco tokens scheme. This was discussed and agreed that the Parent Council should apply. **Action: Fern to find out further information**
- b) **Community Lottery (Fern):** Due to having charitable status the Parent Council can now apply to join the Community Lottery. The benefits of joining were discussed and voted on to set up. The majority voted YES. **Action: Fern to apply to join**
- c) **Plans for 2023 – approve dates for school let applications (Fern & Mandy)**  
Mandy updated all on the fundraising activities taking place this year, see attachment.

If any parent would like to join the fundraising team or have any suggestions for fundraising events, please contact Fern or Mandy.

#### 5. A.O.B

Karolina raised concerns about the hedge surrounding the entrance to the school being overgrown. Karolina to give further information to Euan who will raise with the council. **Action: Cllr Euan Hislop**

Karolina also mentioned the confusion some primary 1 parents have when their child starts school. It was mentioned that further information is found in the welcome booklet created by Mandy. If there are any ideas and/or suggestions, please contact either Fern or Mandy who will add for next year.

Template for Christmas Cards has been delivered to the school office.