

Meeting of REPHAD PARENT COUNCIL held online Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Ruth-Anne Henderson (Chairperson); Karen Logue (Head Teacher); Moira Baird (Depute Head Teacher); Angela Milligan (Treasurer); Paula Erskine (Parent Member); Gavin Lee (Parent Member); Natalie Lisi; Fiona Shannon; Stacey Wilson.

Apologies received: Ros Surtees, Willie Scobie, Jen Leek and Fiona Gaffney.

1. **Minutes** from AGM in June were proposed as correct by Paula and seconded by Gavin.
2. **Members** RA (Ruth-Anne) welcomed the new faces we had joining us on Zoom. She advised that we only had 5 members at present. To remain in line with our constitution and remain parent council, we need a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10. Current members introduced themselves, followed by new faces and then school staff in attendance. Natalie Lisi was voted as a new member. Proposed by Paula, seconded by Gavin. Teacher representatives this year will be Naomi Miller and Amy Bingham.
3. **Office Bearers**. Natalie has kindly offered her services as clerk to the parent council. Angela proposed and Paula seconded. RA thanked Natalie and welcomed her to the team. Angela was re-elected as Treasurer. Paula proposed and Natalie seconded. RA thanked Angela again for her continued work on the parent council's behalf.

When Diane McClintock stepped down from the parent council, she passed on contact details of parents interested in helping with fundraising. RA will contact them to ensure they are still happy to be a part of the Fundraising Sub-Committee.

RA advised that we will need Parent Council member(s) to organise and meet with the Fundraising Sub-Committee when required. This will need to be further discussed as no volunteers were forthcoming at present. It is to be noted, however, that during current covid-19 restrictions, any meetings would have to take place online or off school premises.

4. RA explained that D+G council's **current advice, due to covid-19 restrictions** is that there are to be no parents entering the school building. That goes for parent volunteers, parents' nights, collecting children. She advised that this makes it harder for us to stay in contact as a school community (but not impossible) and that is where social media and technology come in to play. Last week RA attended a webinar by Connect Scotland (the trading name of the Scottish Parent Teacher Council charity and membership organisation which supports and insures parents and parent groups). It was called "Parent Councils – What's Our Role Now?" and it was very encouraging and informative. Just because parents cannot set foot on school premises, does not mean to say there' is nothing Parent Council can do. She

explained that the PC are here as a means of communication between school and parents. We are here to remove any barriers there might be between school and ALL parents. The PC is not solely a fundraising body attached to the school. We can be involved in and organise the sharing of information, adult learning, getting speakers in to support parents and children with issues around, for example, sleep, healthy eating, accessing grants and technology and safe use of technology.

RA asked if a **survey** could go out to ask parents how they would best like to hear from Parent Council. Karen suggested the new app has a survey feature which she will be testing this week. If it proves successful, Parent Council could put out a survey on that. Failing that, Microsoft Forms could be used (which was the format suggested by Vanessa Morris, Support Officer)

RA will organise with Karen a **New Headteacher Question and Answer Session** which ALL parents will be invited to contribute towards and attend. It is proposed that this takes place in the first week back after the October Holidays. RA will invite parents to join in via letter and the Facebook group. Questions will be gathered beforehand to allow Karen to prepare answers. Questions could range from getting to know Mrs Logue and her vision for the school, to current covid procedures etc.

Fundraising- Christmas Cards – this year we are going with School Fundraising. Templates have been delivered. Artwork will be completed in school, gathered in by 2nd Oct and sent away for 9th. Company deal with all orders online. So, no contact with parents or cash. RA will compose a letter to go out to parents for Monday 14th September.

-Easy Fundraising- RA presented an online fundraising opportunity in the website and app “Easy Fundraising”. When you sign up to it, you go through the website to another online retailer (eg Amazon, Sports Direct, John Lewis, Just Eat, New Look and over 4000 more available). That retailer then donates to your chosen cause, namely Rephad Parent Council. RA proposed that the PC sign up for and promote this, Gavin seconded. RA will inform the wider Parent Forum about Easy Fundraising via letter and the FB group.

-Christmas Fayre - Angela suggested the Parent Council hold a virtual Christmas Fayre this year via Facebook. Online vendors will be invited to sell in our FB group for a set donation. Parents will be invited to join as buyers. A complete plan/schedule will have to be decided upon and which vendors to ask. Fiona suggested we hold it before “Black Friday” to optimise selling. All members agreed to go ahead and plan this.

5. **New School App** – School are now using a new app called “Jigsaw School App” and are encouraging all parents to download it to receive news, letters and information from school.

6. **Update from Treasurer** Angela is still waiting on signatures to be approved by the bank in order to be able to access account number 2. Therefore, we do not know if the LA’s grant has been paid in for this year. Account number 1 has a balance of £2250.44 at present. Accounts were audited last session at a cost of £144 for two years of accounts. Angela advised the End of Year Statement had been submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council for session 19/20.

No update on **Uniform Shop** due to covid restrictions.

Update from Headteacher PARENT COUNCIL HEAD TEACHER REPORT 10.9.20

“Settled in well and adhering to guidelines and being responsive and creative as required. An email message will be going out to each child’s family to indicate how they are settling in as we are unable to have the traditional “drop in”. This will happen through the week of 14th Sept.

School App has been updated, much more modern looking.

Miss Dewar had a baby girl, Mrs Cooke returning after her leave.

We will email out targets late October and encourage you to respond through email to share your views. We are hopeful Parent’s Night can take place in May.

Learning Journal links to begin as of term 2 and each child will have at least one “story/observation” uploaded weekly for you to see.

We have a good sense of the balance of needs within the dinner hall as we have to keep groupings separate to be in line with policy. On the few days the weather has been poor and we need a bit more seating we are waiting until a specific area has been vacated and sanitising tables before they are used by children outside the stage.

Flu vaccine Monday 16th November 11 am – 2pm – processes will be shared and the vaccine is being highly encouraged for all children.

Mrs Baird and Mrs Hamilton are also working hard on accessing a storage container for our “loose parts” using a grant the school received last session. Mr Arnott has also been busy in the garden clearing a lot of overgrown rosehips and some other not so child friendly plants. We will see what we can replace the prickly hedges but the senior entry doors with to have a wind barrier.

We are considering organizing a “Love your Garden” clean up in the Millennium Garden with adults in a socially distanced way but may need to wait until spring.

We are looking at a few ways to promote fundraising through the session. A few ideas that usually are in place can be adapted for current purposes and we may be using a few new ideas.

Events for children such as discos – trying to consider how we can do some events during school time. We are awaiting advice after October holidays regarding what we can do by authority and government advice.

We will celebrate Roald Dahl Day on Friday 11th (tomorrow) and everyone is encouraged to wear Yellow or to dress as a Roald Dahl book character. A donation will go towards expanding book resources.

Working on developing an updated Anti-bullying policy in line with Authority guidance. You will be involved in this as families in the way of a survey and then hopefully we can have a few more individuals involved in creating a document after we have completed some work

with pupils and staff as well. We hope to have the policy completed in an adult and child version by the end of this session.

Personally, I would like to say I am very much enjoying getting to know your children and working (at a 2m distance) with the staff. There is a fabulous team here at Rephad and we all benefit from the strengths and enthusiasms of every last staff member.”

Mrs Baird was invited to share the progression of plans for Loose Parts and Outdoor Learning. Funding has been applied for from Learning Through Landscapes. We will know in November if this has been successful. If so, it will be used to purchase a shed to allow outdoor loose parts learning in all weathers. Moira recommended that the PC contact Stuart Binnie, a trustee of the Rhins Educational Trust to ascertain when their next round of funding begins.

7. **Dates** for this session’s meetings are as follows: **12th Nov** 7pm; **11th Feb**; **18th Mar**; **13th May** 7pm AGM, followed by short ordinary meeting and **FRIDAY 18th June**, short meeting followed by Social.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm