

Sanquhar Primary Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday 31st January 2023 – 6 – 7.30pm

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Present: Greg Black, Steve Beattie, Kirsty Pearson, Krystin Black, David Robertson, Kerry O'Neill, Emma Herries, Ashley Weir, Gayle Zaidi, Danielle Harris, Jillian Hamilton, Daryll Moore, Jim Dempster

Apologies: Victoria Hastie, Rosi McQuarrie-Parks and Lynne Shaw

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Greg Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that three further items had been added to the agenda under AOB.

2. Previous minutes

Minutes from the last meeting (15/11/22) were circulated with the group. These were proposed by David Robertson as correct and seconded by Gayle Zaidi.

3. Clerk's Report

Correspondence received:

- Connect newsletter email with information on Parent Council training sessions and easyfundraising (already forwarded to all Parent Council members).
- D & G Council email – P1 Enrolment takes place in January.
- DGPCF (Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum) email – Minutes from the meeting held on 30th Nov – Greg Black attended this online and gave feedback later on during the meeting.
- Trevor and Michaela First Aid Training email – Information on booking an accredited first aid training course.
- Gambling Commission letter – Information regarding licences for fundraising.
ACTION – Krystin to forward first aid email to all Parent Council members and find out about whether a gambling licence is required for fundraising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts from October 2022 to 31st January 2023

	Income	Outgoing
Bank Balance b/f	£488.90	
Quarterly Interest	£0.67	
Total Income	£2895.63	
Total Expenditure		£367.82

Balance Remaining (Petty Cash and Bank)	£3017.38	
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Details of Income and Outgoings

Christmas Light Switch On Materials		£58.01
Christmas Light Switch On	£415.10	
School Christmas Fayre	£178.00	
The Upper Nithsdale Community Trust Cheque	£500.00	
Sanquhar Primary PTA Cheque	£1552.53	
Sanquhar Community Council Cheque	£250.00	
Deposit for bouncy castle (Summer Fayre)		£20.00
Christmas Fayre (late receipt)		£10.40
Thank you cards		£5.00
Petty Cash Box and receipt book		£16.75

Everyone approved that Greg Black (Chairperson) and Kirsty Pearson (Treasurer) should be the two signatories on the bank account for the Parent Council.

Kirsty Pearson stated that they should have access to the bank account in approximately 14 days. Greg thanked Kirsty for persevering with this.

5. Headteacher's Report

Staff Update

Mr Beattie stated that Mrs McKie had been moved to Kelloholm Primary by the Council and is now using her expertise and experience in a nursery role. She will be in that role for two years and will then return to Sanquhar Primary. Bronwyn Moore is now covering Mrs McKie's role at Sanquhar Primary. Mr Beattie apologised for the quick turnaround.

Mrs McNay is due to have a baby in June and Mr Beattie stated that he has a plan for when she goes on maternity leave. Mr Kilpatrick and his wife are due to have a baby in April and he will require two weeks paternity leave. Miss Weir in the nursery is also due to have a baby.

Class re-configuration

Greg Black raised a parental concern about the classes shuffling mid-year. Three classes were recently reconfigured. Mr Beattie stated that this had allowed the classes to re-join their peer groups. The Council has confirmed that there will be no more re-arranging classes this year.

Education Officer

Mr Beattie stated that there is a new Education Officer for Sanquhar Primary- Andrea McFarlane. There has been a lot of change in Education Officers recently. Greg Black questioned how well the Education Officer knows Sanquhar Primary with such a lack of consistency in the role.

ACTION - Jim Dempster stated that he would raise concern over the lack of consistency with Gillian Brydson.

Disruption

Mr Beattie stated that there had been disruption due to the teacher strikes but that the Learning Assistants and non-teaching staff had still been in on these days picking up some extra jobs. The nursery was also kept open. The school also closed for one day for safety of pupils and staff due to a water leak.

School Values

Mr Beattie showed the completed school values graphics designed by Kirsty Young and stated that these values would start to be embedded in school.

Curriculum Rationale

Mr Beattie stated that staff were in the early stages of looking at the curriculum and making improvements.

Expenditure

Mr Beattie noted that PEF funding has mostly been used for Learning Assistants, allowing extra staff to target support. There has been good success with this. This has also freed up Mrs McVey for nurture.

The school was given an anonymous donation. Mr Beattie has decided to spend this on interactive white boards and P1-P7 will benefit from this.

Successes

- The Athletics team placed second in Dumfries and Galloway which is an excellent achievement for the school and pupils involved.
- Stay and play has been successful and it is great having parents/carers in school.
- The Christmas Fayre went well but some tweaks will be made to improve it for next year.
- Seesaw has been rolled out successfully. One parent questioned why the nursery doesn't use Seesaw. Mr Beattie stated that the Learning Journal's benefit is the evidence of learning that is produced.
- The school has a good partnership with the Airts and Action for Children. The Action for Children Swap shop is closing and the school is going to take on this responsibility.

ACTION - Jim Dempster suggested that the school may be able to use the existing store room for the clothing and Mr Beattie said that he would look into this.

- The Sanquhar Primary Parent Council has the largest number of members of any Parent Council in Dumfries and Galloway.

Upcoming Events

World Book Day - March

Literacy Week - March

Book Fayre - March

Burn's Festivals

Sanquhar Academy Open Evening – Wed 15th Feb (rescheduled)

Residential trip after Easter

6. Changing the Constitution

Greg Black sent out the constitution in advance and highlighted the suggested changes. The group was happy with the changes and Danielle McNulty proposed this and Kirsty Pearson seconded this.

7. Hydrotherapy Pool

The whole group agreed that it would be good to get the pool up and running again. Ashley Weir stated that it was previously used successfully, providing many benefits to the users. The ARC occasionally used this as well as other nurseries/schools. Daryll Moore stated that he was keen for the ARC service users to be able to use the facility. Mr Beattie stated that he had asked about getting this fixed five times in recent months. Two people did come to have a look at it, but no progress has been made.

ACTION - Jim Dempster stated that he would take this to task and give an update at the next meeting.

8. Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum

Greg Black recently attended the online meeting for the DGPCF and gave feedback on this. An item of interest was the potential challenging budget constraints for additional support needs throughout the region.

ACTION - Greg Black stated that he would forward the slides to the other Parent Council members.

9. Request for Funding – Sensory Equipment

Mr Beattie and Miss Weir had a company 'SpaceKraft' come in and give a quote for an updated sensory room, as existing equipment is either broken or outdated, with replacement parts for some items no longer available. A floor plan was shown to the group of a potential design and quotes for various options were given. This could also potentially be used by the community alongside the hydro pool. Mr Beattie stated that approximately £5000 would be provided by the school for this, but extra funding would be needed. The group decided it was a good idea to explore funding streams for this to go ahead.

ACTION - Greg Black, Ashley Weir and Daryll Moore are to liaise together when filling out funding applications for this.

10. AOB

Lee Syme stated that there is a broken bollard and hole in the ground at the school crossing. She also highlighted the need for the crossing to be painted as a zebra crossing.

ACTION - Jim Dempster said that he would take this up with the Education Department. Mr Beattie said that he would think about access for pupils and parents coming in and out of the school to avoid congestion.

Lee Syme also suggested that a defibrillator should be installed in the school. Currently the nearest defibrillator is at Nisa.

ACTION - Jim Dempster stated that he would contact Dr Iain Baker to get some advice on this. Danielle McNulty stated that she would find out more about the defibrillator installed in New Cumnock Primary School and how this was funded.

11. Social & Fundraising

Emma Herries stated that the DJ was booked for the upcoming Valentine's Disco (14th Feb) and there would be glow sticks available for pupils to purchase and a tuck shop. Prices will go out prior to the event so that parents are well informed.

A Beetle Drive is to be held in the school on approximately the 27th April for families.

The 3rd June was agreed on by the group as the date for the Summer Fete.

ACTION - Jim Dempster stated that he would find out about a trust which gives money to schools for educational outings, as this is something that Sanquhar Primary has not previously applied for.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and Greg Black thanked everyone for coming.