

## Dunlop Primary School Parent Council/Parent Association

Meeting: 20th November 2019

### MINUTES

**Present:** Mrs Wilson; Miss White; Jen Gaskin; Anna Wilson; Anna Brown; Emily Bennet; Aileen Dunlop; Daniela Young; Claire Young; Debbie Simmers; Diane Brown; Heather Allen; Anna Young; Lynda Lamberton; Pamela Young; Justine Young; David Caulfield.

**Apologies:** Carol McLelland; Kate Murray; Lee-ann Dalziel; Martin Brogan; Hazel Salt

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#### Items Discussed – Parent Council

1. Headteacher's update
  - a) ECC building site investigations ongoing. Design progressing. Care Inspectorate approval is required for various design matters. Cost estimate to be confirmed prior to the year end.
  - b) The council are applying for planning permission for the Pod to be a permanent building since there will be no extension to the school now.
  - c) Toilet works have been delayed (contractor still to be appointed).
  - d) School inspection – Mrs Wilson thanked everyone for their support during the inspection. Gradings will be published just before or just after Christmas. Education Scotland will send a letter out to parents/carers.
  - e) ECC have commenced train trips to Glasgow and Stewarton.
  - f) ECC formal transition events are going well.
  - g) The school Christmas choir has been assembled and is being run by Mrs Wilson this year. Mrs Wilson noted her thanks to Miss McCrae who ran the choir previously.
2. Respect Me
  - a) Shona Cooley and several other parents have attended training, as has Mrs. Wilson.
  - b) The objective of the initiative is to ensure that all adults know how to manage bullying in a consistent manner.
  - c) Mrs Wilson and Shona will visit Kilmaurs Primary school to learn what they have done over the past two years.
  - d) It is planned to involve the pupil council, and ensure that the Respect Me initiative is embedded in the school over the next few years.
  - e) Mrs Wilson noted that "Respectful Relationships" is now on the school blog.
  - f) Respect Me group will report back at the next meeting

- g) Shona Cooley will attend another workshop in January to learn how to cascade the initiative out to parents/carers.

### 3. Homework

- a) A meeting was held at school on 23 October, but few parents/carers attended.
- b) Jen Gaskin had been contacted by some parents unhappy with the new policy, and several people present at the meeting raised points. Main points:
- Query why there wasn't a poll undertaken following the last meeting
  - Project-based homework is stressful as it is very time consuming and unclear task requirements mean it is difficult for the parent to support their children.
  - Could the projects be staggered timewise across classes so that families with multiple children aren't working to the same deadline?
  - Suggestion that smaller elements of the work could be done as homework tasks, with teams completing the task in class
  - Could pupils be given clearer instructions on the homework in class?
  - Parents don't know what their child is learning in school/how they are being taught particular strategies e.g. maths
  - Could a poll be undertaken?

Points to address these issues:

- P5 upwards have individual E-portfolios, accessed via Glow, that pupils can access to show their work at home.
  - As discussed at previous PC meeting, there will be more frequent opportunities to speak with class teachers this year (now three parents evenings and timeslots doubled to 10 minutes) which should help better inform parents/carers
  - Mrs Wilson will look into the clarity of homework tasks and how they are programmed across the classes.
- c) The new format of homework was discussed with HMIE during the Inspection week and met with their approval.
- d) Mrs Wilson attended a South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway) meeting last week and the keynote speaker, Douglas Hutchison, who is the lead Officer for SWEIC stood firm on the ground that homework at Primary School level had minimal impact on attainment. Dunlop staff do not want to stop giving out homework, as many other schools now do, but want to ensure what is sent home enhances learning and also allows children to have quality time with their families and to participate in wider achievement activities.

#### 4. Cycling Proficiency

50% pass rate this year. Concern that the test being carried out during cold weather with the whole class doing the test together was a contributing factor to the poor pass rate. Miss White explained that the test was planned for earlier in the year but had to be delayed as many of the pupils were not ready. All the pupils that failed did so on safety grounds (no lifesaver over the shoulder check). Pupils will be able to retake the test in Spring, and they will go for the test in smaller groups.

#### 5. Carbohydrate content of school meals

Parent of a diabetic child requested that all school meals should be carb-counted. Mrs Wilson has carb-counted DPS's meals. Parent would like to see this being done for the high school. Mrs Wilson suggested that Andrena Reid or Mark Hunter are the best contacts.

#### 6. Treasurer's update

Treasurer (Kate Murray) had provided a report but a lack of phone signal meant that it could not be tabled. Noted at meeting that it would be provided in minutes:

**Account balance £3,798.20**

**Cash held £408.00**

##### Activity since last meeting

**IN** £688.10 Halloween party profit

**IN** Christmas card etc takings £1,247 with total of £314.80 raised for PA (yet to be banked)

**OUT** £900 to school - £100 per class

**OUT** £263 spent on cups and storage boxes

**OUT** £50 gifts for staff

# Adjustment for Winterfest profit, correct value is £1,591.53 #

### Items Discussed – Parent Association

#### 1. Christmas Coffee Morning

- a) School are having a Christmas stall. Some parents have been helping in school to make tree decorations which will be sold. Also on sale are reindeer food, santa keys and lollipops.
- b) More helpers are needed for the event – the aim is for everyone to do 1.5 hours each. Also need helpers on the Friday for setting up, 1.45 – 4pm at the school. Leanne Johnstone is doing a rota.

- c) Santa gifts will be a mixture of chocolate and jelly sweets. Helpers will be needed to wrap these. Any leftover will be donated to Barnados or Hillhouse (a volunteer is sought to take responsibility for that)
- d) Urns are required for the event – Mrs Wilson will order these.
- e) Flyers went out in schoolbags today
- f) Choir will be at 11.30 am, followed by the raffle. A microphone is needed for the raffle draw.
- g) New ceramic coffee cups have been purchased for use at Christmas and future events in an effort to reduce single use.
- h) Mrs Wilson noted that the school was donated a ladies bike, and a post was put on the app in October but no one has shown any interest. Could the bike be raffled at the coffee morning? Local facebook groups and Gumtree might be worth a try to get more money for it.
- i) Further arrangements will be made via group messages.

## 2. Race Donation

Discussed donation of £150 to local groups, split between three.

POST MEETING NOTE: Further discussion required at next meeting.

## 3. Community Council Participatory Budget Funding

A sum of £10,000 is available for local communities (Deadwater Fell filming). This will be split up into smaller grants, so that any organisation applying would receive £500. There are specific criteria for who can apply and what the funds could be used for. It is anticipated that the deadline for application will be the third week of January, and this would be followed by an exhibition where the community members can vote for their preferred projects. Further discussion is needed once the Community Council has published details of the arrangements.

### Next meeting:

**Date:** 18th December, 19.30 – 21.00, School Pod.

**Items for the agenda include:** Respect Me; Community Council Participatory Budget Funding; P7 Party; Winterfest.

Minutes submitted by:	Anna Wilson (Secretary)
Approved by:	Jen Gaskin (Chair)