

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

30TH JANUARY 2020

Present at Meeting:-

Tracey Campbell
Phemia McCarthy
Mairi-Jean Watkins

Sarah Clark (HT)
Kirsteen MacKay (PT)
Ursula Scrimgeour (DHT)
Morag Hunter (Business Support)

Welcome to everyone.

HT Report – consisted of newsletter (copy attached). All information on Twitter.

TC suggested a 'Friday bundle' with information which some other schools within the Authority do, but it was agreed that we will start emailing a 'monthly bundle' to Parents.

US presented 'A guide for Parents' document (copy attached) aimed at Parents of Senior Phase Pupils providing information on the move from S3 to S4 and asked for feedback from Parent Council. TC suggested one for S1 or S2 but was advised by SC that the Senior phase starts in S4 and evidence should not be collected or presented for an exam sooner than that as stated in Curriculum for Excellence. It's to make Parents aware that our Pupils are working on Qualifications. TC requested a list of courses available to our Pupils and it was agreed that we would compile a list of all courses we've presented over the past 10 years. It was pointed out that the courses may vary from year to year, depending on the skill set of the Teachers we have though they are all able to provide all subjects at National 1 & 2 Level. SC advised that we can also access help from mainstream teaching staff within ERC. US confirmed that ALL IMS pupils will achieve National 1 with support thought some subjects suit our Pupils better than others. Scottish Studies and Personal Achievement Awards were mentioned. Current SQA system is National 1-5 with all our Pupils leaving school with different qualification.

Grow Cook Eat – this is ongoing at the allotments and West College Scotland. M-JW expressed concern at talk of allotments closing. SC to investigate tomorrow. Although there is space at the side of IMS, it was agreed that the Pupils benefit from the experience of going to the allotments and this would be lost if at school. Showcase lunch in June.

Audit and Scrutiny Committee Learning for Sustainability initiative on climate change - Visitors to the school tomorrow – Director of Education, two Heads of Service and three Councillors. Pupils to show how passionate we are about recycling at IMS.

Young Carers Day. Disability Allowance funding for young carers was discussed as some of our Pupils have siblings who may be eligible for this.

SC advised that we can no longer use the ACCAs and we trialled a new system – Smile Smart Technology - Drivedeck – with one of the pupils which was very successful. Cost is £10k per unit.

PMcC would like to go for charitable status. A sub-committee will be formed for this purpose. CS (Office Manager) helping and LT is happy to help with this as she has experience of doing a lottery application.

MJW advised that applications are open for funding from the Co-op and we are applying for the Tesco coin drop though we must specify what we're fundraising for. Waitrose, Tesco and Asda have supported us well in the past. HT to update wish list for future.

Parent Council to purchase a banner advertising their events, urns and collection buckets. TC confirmed ok to buy urns prior to Coffee Morning in February.

Spring Fling being held on 2nd April selling goods made by Classes. KMCK advised that the Sustainability Group will be planting bulbs to sell and there will be plaques on wood, plant pots with hand prints and an easter bonnet decorating station

Donations received from Mearns Probus Club & Lodge Montefiore No. 753 and Parents.

Sensory Room and Soft Play being refitted at a cost of £15k.

Fundraising – TH family have raised £4k to date towards cost of an accessible swing for Loch Ness playground. LT had said there is a similar swing in Rouken Glen Park. SC has contacted them for a quote. Fundraising Family Celidh being held in Oran Mor this year. TC suggested that we let people know what we're fundraising for in particular, as it's nice to know what the money will be spent on. PMcC suggested that Parents may think we receive plenty of funding through the budget though there may be extra items we'd like to buy. SC wants to create a community.

Coffee & Chat is a good chance for parents to speak to one another as they don't have the same opportunities as mainstream due to the Pupils being on school transport. PMcC mentioned a pastoral side of Parent Council.

It was suggested that minutes of Parent Council meeting are emailed to Parents though they are available online.

Kerry Cameron from Youth & Culture Services has produced an ASN leaflet with information on Dentists, Doctors, Clubs etc. She's asked for feedback from the Parent Council prior to it being completed and put on the Parent Page of our Website. The Parents responded positively. US suggested that web resources be included on the leaflet. PMcC suggested that The Market Place in The Avenue might be a good place for Parents to meet away from the school.

Family Fun Technology Day – 28th March in Edinburgh – may be of interest to Parents.

Time to Talk coffee – Class Harris – possibly pupils from EHS to provide music and dance entertainment. Proceeds to be split equally between Time to Talk and Parent Council.

School has invested in 20 Chromebooks for Pupils in three classes at a cost of £300 each. More may be purchased if they're well used. Substantial cases provided too.

MJW asked if any flexibility on when Parent Council meetings are held so it was agreed that this would be included in a Questionnaire to Parents. It would be helpful to have one Parent from each class representing and giving feedback. Parents could set up a WhatsApp Group for ease of communication amongst themselves. MJW happy to take on social media for Parent Council. A new Facebook page will be set up. SC advised that the school cannot promote the Facebook page as we are not part of it and we use twitter and our website. It was agreed that we will have access to old Facebook page which LOB will update. It was agreed that the school and Parent Council must work

together. Volunteers will be sought to join sub-groups within Parent Council – Sex Ed, Fundraising, Transition group, Social group with each group involving different Parents.

Work Experience – it was suggested that Parents are asked if this is something they could provide for our Pupils.

PMCC has a contact in the Scottish Ambulance Service who is willing to provide free courses on British Heart Start.