

Kirkhill Primary School Parent Council

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 28th JANUARY 2021

LOCATION: ONLINE

ATTENDEES

Sidra Hasan Ahmed (Chair), Laura Hutton (Vice Chair), Claire Sunderland (Treasurer), Jago Brown (Treasurer), Mark Carter (Secretary), Jane Barbary, Louise Jones, Claire Mitchell, Fiona Byrne, Hilary Houston, Lisa Sarkar, Lorraine Fleming, Jenny Simpson, Pete Kewin, Nazia Akram, Dianne McCartney, Hazel Aitken, Kathryn Chisholm, Sam Thompson, Shona Melrose, Lynda Donaldson, Pamela Cochrane, Jan Coyle, Liz Edmonstone, Lorna MacGregor, Gemma Johnston, Cllr Caroline Bamforth

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parent Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Welcome
 2. Apologies
 3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting and Approval of Minutes
 4. Parent Council Matters
 5. Finance Report
 6. Fundraising Report
 7. Head Teacher's Report
 8. Any Other Business
 9. Date of Next Meeting
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1. Welcome

Sidra welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jane Duffy, Carly Mason, Emma Love, Sanjeev Patil, Helen Wilson, Morag Moffett, Wendy Espie, Mudi Raja, Victoria Shore, Nicola Haggerty, Shabana Hussain, Cllr Barbara Grant, Rev Jim Boag.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting and Approval of Minutes

No issues/comments were raised from the minutes from the last meeting on 17 November 2020, which were duly approved.

4. Parent Council Matters

ERC PC Chairs Meeting: concentrating on "3 Rs" - Response, Recovery, Renewal, SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group on Education, Healthier Minds (this initiative is an update from the Nov 2019 consultation on mental health and wellbeing, delayed due to the pandemic) and the Education Scotland Focus Group - including a national overview of quality effectiveness/delivery of remote learning.

Online Learning: with little advance notice in March 2020, teachers and staff had an intense input to get schoolwork available remotely and we are really grateful and appreciative of everyone's hard work. Albeit there were initial hiccups with passwords/access, staff and children alike rose to the challenge and coped really well. KPC hasn't been approached by parents/carers with any concerns or issues and few have directly contacted the school.

PC/Parent Forum Comms: typically, the Parent Council communicates with the Parent Forum via announcements/newsletters in the school's Friday Bundle or through our Facebook page. From time-to-time we do ask our class reps to communicate on their WhatsApp class chats however these chats are not managed or administered by or for the Parent Council. We're aware of alternatives other schools/Parent Councils are using so we are investigating alternatives - for example, the Classlist smartphone app.

5. Finance Report

Jago Brown and Claire Sunderland presented the Finance Report:

- Current bank account balance at 26/01/21: £5817.87
- Projected expenditure: £67.52
- Projected bank account balance - £5750.35

The Christmas Card project raised over £1400, the Hampers over £1800 and Winterfest over £800, which is fantastic given current circumstances. It also gives us a very healthy bank balance to begin 2021 with.

In addition, internet banking is fully set up, so we are now able to pay expenses claims online. We have lessons learned from the online payments we took for the hampers fundraiser too, which should make the process more efficient/easier next time.

6. Fundraising Report

Laura Hutton provided an update on Fundraising activities and thanked Liz and the school for the support in processing the orders for the Christmas cards fundraiser.

Additionally, Winterfest was a success - great fun for families involved and lots of positive feedback, together with the snowman window displays and festive recipe book. Feedback for the online pantomime was similarly positive.

As we're already back in lockdown, we are probably not going to pursue any major fundraising events. Instead, we're looking ahead to when children are back in classrooms. We may review our Winterfest feedback with a view to holding a "summerfest" with input on variety of tasks/activities and what went well, what didn't go so well, what else could work, etc.

Sidra added that we are looking for ideas from the Parent Council and wider parent forum in terms of expenditure/events - please let us know!

7. Head Teacher's Report

Liz Edmonstone began her report by thanking all parents and carers for their continued support of the school and staff and for their ongoing patience and understanding in difficult circumstances. Thanks also to the Parent Council for funding P1 presents, pocket-money gifts for all pupils, class party prizes families raffle and school cookbook in the run-up to the festive period and Christmas holidays.

Remote Learning Update - following feedback from the first lockdown in March 2020, we've amended our approach to online learning:

- weekly work plans uploaded to SeeSaw to allow families to plan learning
- differentiated teaching and learning in Literacy and Numeracy to take into account the different needs of groups
- new concepts introduced through videos, online platforms or teacher-created videos/materials
- 2 daily check-in sessions - one at a class level and focusing on HWB, and one for pupils to drop into individually if they require assistance with work or wish to chat to their teacher
- Whole school assemblies every two weeks
- Continuation of our positive relationship policy through #PROUD certificates and messages through SeeSaw to recognise achievement and effort

Feedback: we've had lots of emails from families thanking our staff for their efforts since school started back in January, these are such a boost to our morale in a very difficult period - thank you! We also encourage parents and carers to complete the surveys we put out from time-to-time as these help us to see what we are doing well and which areas we can improve.

Pupil Support: Pupils can share concerns with their class teacher during daily drop-in sessions online, pupils can also message their teacher privately on SeeSaw. There is also a Getting it Right for Me worry form which pupils can complete & submit online and an adult will get in touch with them.

Family Support: the school isn't just here to educate our children! We realise that families face challenges and difficulties from time to time, especially during the pandemic circumstances of the last year. If your family has any concerns, or needs support or is facing financial difficulties, please don't feel you can't reach out to the school for help. We will treat all such conversations confidentially and we can support families in a number of ways - through provision of warm clothing for children, food, learning resources, toiletries and sanitary products, and wellbeing support. We can also connect you with external groups such as Parent Club, which has a wide range of support to offer families.

If anyone has any queries or concerns, please email the School Office and we'll get back to you as soon as we can - or email and request to speak to your child's Stage Leader (P1 - Miss MacGregor, P2 - Mrs Tees, P3 & P4 - Miss Cumming, P5 & P6 - Mrs Menzies, P7 - Mr Tyler). Please remember that SeeSaw is a learning platform for the pupils and shouldn't be used as a communication channel between parents and the school.

Liz also put forward some future funding requests of the Parent Council for consideration:

- Primary 7 Activities Week: since residential trips will more than likely not be possible to be held, the school is planning a week of activities in school for P7s
- Virtual Experiences/Talks for Pupils during Lockdown: if parents/carers would like to provide online content/presentations for pupils, please contact us
- P7 ties

Sidra noted that the Parent Council also typically budgets for assistance with the P7 Dance, which hopefully may be able to take place in some form this year.

8. Any Other Business

Sidra shared details of a thank you letter received from Broom Church regarding improvements in driver behaviour and parking within the Broom Church car park. Cllr Bamforth noted that the traffic islands on Broom Road East have now been installed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 - most likely online.