



NEILSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Neilston Parent Council

27th November 2018
6.30pm

Present

Natalie McMillan (Chair), Gerard Curley (HT), Kenny Fulton (Treasurer), Jane McDermott (DHT), Olivia Crook (Teacher)
 Parents: Anna Kerr, Karen Elrick, Peter McLaren, Maytal Findlay, Jill Keys
 Apologies: Stacy Moffat, Staci Crabbe, Rona Thompson, Paul O’Kane (Councillor), Joe Deary, Joanne Gardner, Jenny Macdonald (Secretary)

Agenda item	Notes	Action
1. Minutes of last Meeting	No issues raised. Maytal didn’t receive minutes – her address is maytalwolfe@hotmail.com	Jenny to add Maytal to email list for minutes
2. SOS feedback	Fayre was a massive success and over £4000 was raised. The group are planning a debrief at their next meeting and have a few ideas for next year’s fayre already. Some of the money is going towards Skills Academy and team tracksuits. Future fundraising events: Stall at Christmas Light Switch On event (9 th Dec) selling leftover jams, chutneys, gifts etc. Possibly stall at Neilston Show and fundraising at Sports Day.	Maytal to continue to pass information between fundraising group and PC.
3. End of year reports	Olivia Crook shared options/examples for changing the format of end of year reports. The staff are keen to get rid of jargon, reduce reports in length and give parents information on experiences the children have had rather than comments being mainly related to skills. Everyone agreed with that. Olivia took notes on feedback from Parent Council members to include in new format.	Olivia Crook to work on changing report format.
4. Head Teacher Report	Gerard Curley gave feedback on the Transition Review from the council which took place on the 8 th and 9 th Nov. Initial feedback from that was very positive. The team validated where the school felt they were at in their self evaluation. The written report should be ready in the middle of January. Staffing: Arwen Orr is taking up a new post after Christmas. Emma Roberts from GCC will be joining the staff in January and working in P2. Gifting for teachers: Gerard raised the issue of gifts for teachers and this being a pressure that some families may feel and can’t afford. As a group we agreed that a message	Informal Meet the Teacher during term3 for P2 parents

	<p>should go out to parents communicating that they should feel no obligation to buy for teachers/school staff.</p> <p>Period Poverty: Every school has been given resources to support girls who need sanitary products. We discussed options for where to keep the resources and which bathrooms the girls should use if they need sanitary products. The options are keeping these in the upper school toilets or in a more private toilet between the DHT and PT rooms, or both.</p> <p>Neilston Masonic Lodge are donating £100 to the family centre and the school. Member of staff to go along and receive this on the evening of Thursday 13th December.</p>	<p>Jane to talk to staff and pupils and based on this make a final decision of where products will be kept.</p> <p>School to send representative.</p>
5. School Photographs	<p>Peter raised that a number of parents had issues dealing with Tempest this last year. Kenny contacted a friend called Jane Henderson who did Busby's school photographs this year and would be willing to do the Neilston Learning Campus photos.</p>	<p>Kenny passing on details and other quotes to be sought</p>
6. Club Selection	<p>Jill asked how sports clubs are selected within the school. There is only a school football team at the moment. In the past Mr Cuthbert (who has volunteered his time) has observed the children during lunchtime and picks the team on a game by game basis. Jill raised concerns about how the teams are picked, children being told they are in and then that changing and general poor communication around this. The main issue is how children are told if they are in the team not if they are in the team. Mr Cuthbert has recently said he will no longer be taking the school team and the school currently don't have anyone to fill this role.</p>	<p>The school are looking for a new football team coach.</p>
7. Christmas Light Switch On	<p>The school has a stall at the Switch On event and will sell leftover stock from the fayre. Jen Elliott will man this. School choir also singing, hopefully Lindsay Allan will be back next week, if not Jenny Macdonald is willing to help out again.</p>	<p>Anna to contact Andrew Howie for choir performance time once Paul O'Kane has running order. Gerard to let Jenny know next week if she is required.</p>
8. Update from ERC	<p>Money should be available from 2020 onwards. We will know more in February when the next council capital plan takes place.</p>	
9. Joint Campus Thoughts	<p>Alan Walker (NDT) has suggested using Kingston Playing Fields for the new campus and is presenting his ideas to the Community Council this evening. Alan is meeting Paul O'Kane to discuss this further. PC members are concerned that if Kingston Playing Fields are used that the</p>	<p>Natalie to send email to Paul</p>

	village will lose its only large park space as ERC seem keen to build houses on any land that becomes available. PC members, however, reiterated concerns about the school site not being big enough for a joint campus, nursery, pool and library. ERC have asked if there is an appetite for a joint campus, not whether stakeholders agree that the current site is the best one. In fact, we were discouraged from asking further questions about this at the meeting with representatives from ERC Education Dept and told that was not what was being consulted on.	
10. Fundraising constitution	Ran out of time to discuss the constitution which was emailed to all members. Any comments should be emailed to Geraldine who will forward to Hannah by the end of this term (21 st Dec). If no objections constitution will be agreed.	
11. AOCB	Flavoured milk: Peter raised that a couple of parents had approached him to ask why pupils could still purchase flavoured milk at the canteen which is contrary to east Renfrewshire's policy. Mr Curley stated P4-7 can buy flavoured milk but not P1-3, which is ERC policy.	
12. AOCB	Communication: Want to make communication better. School app brought in, however complaints that there are now too many places for info to be found. Mr Curley raised the possibility of establishing a communication committee. Sometimes the app doesn't notify and parents miss the notification. Idea floated that a class discussion group could be established for parents.	Gerard to ask for volunteers for parents communications focus group.
13. Dates of next meeting	Exact date to be confirmed: February 2019	