**Carnegie Primary School - Parent Council Mtg**

**Wednesday 13th March 2024**

**Attendees** – Julie Journeaux, Avril Foster, Lynette Thomson, Sierra Martin, Fiona McLellan, Nadia Hogg, Amanda Stewart, Pamela McKenzie, Rachel Fraser

**New PC Attendees** – Ciara Guthrie, Sarah Sheekey, Billy Young

**Apologies** – Gavin Byrne, Toni Paterson, Kerryann Sim, Michelle Humphries

**WELCOME**

LT welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

***Bank Balance*** – Currently £7186.43

***Monies Outstanding (to be paid)*** – Nil

***Upcoming Purchases*** – Ice Lollies for Sports Day

 Primary 7 Leavers Celebrations - £500

 Silent Discos - £1000

***Defibrillator*** – A number of local organisations have agreed to contribute to supporting the supply and installation of a Defibrillator in the Carnegie PS/Halbeath area. These include: Halbeath Community Council, Halbeath Nursery, Carnegie PS Parent Council. Stephens the Bakers have informed this can go onto the wall of their new store in Halbeath village with the installation cost covered by themselves. LT has been messaging Craig Meikle to progress this but has not had a response. Mr Moran is now the secretary of the Halbeath Community Council, and the suggestion was made to contact him directly LT to action. Contact has also been made with the British Heart Foundation re supply of the device, as this has been done at zero cost in the past.

***Benches*** – The purchase of these have been approved. A £2000 grant has been provided by the Carnegie Trust as long as it is matched by the Parent Council. The total cost for the benches and outdoor Chess sets is £4,500. Due to fire regulations the benches require to be 8m from any building. 3 benches will go into the Early Years playground; set in a triangle shape in the middle. 4 benches will go in the bottom playground; spaced around playing fields. 1 additional bench will go into the nursery garden. The Chess sets will have 2 boards painted on the ground in the bottom playground.

***Possible Extra Spend*** –

Seesaw: The price of the license for Seesaw has gone up significantly this year. As the school and nursery this as a core resource for communication; would the Parent Council consider contributing to the additional charge being faced by the school for this.

Excursions: The price of taking children on external excursions normally works out on average around £10 per child. The school tries hard to absorb any cost over £6 per child. As excursion spend requires to go through Council procurement; the delay in getting approval can sometimes lead to additional pricing. There is also a lot of inconsistency in coach charges. Funding in these areas is also being cut. For an excursion costing £8 per child the school, will pay the additional £2; but this is not financially viable for trips costing £11 or £12 per child. In this scenario classes are encouraged to be entrepreneurial to finance any gap in the budget required. Funding from Parent Council for 22 class excursions would not go far. Motion not carried.

Movie Night: To host a movie night at the school Warner Bros, charge £475 for a license. With a charge of £1 or £2 per child this would not be guaranteed to even break even. Motion not carried.

***Remaining Budget Spend*** – Following identified upcoming purchases above including Benches contribution; an outstanding balance of £3000 remains.

***Spring/Summer Fayre*** – Suggested by Islay Roy. This not been hosted traditionally by the school, but it has been done in the past. Payment for this will primarily come from the Parent Council, although a small fee/donation could be charged. There could be the opportunity to have a performance stage at the event for upcoming bands, live music, dance troupes, demonstrations, etc. The children from the Glee Club could perform. An invitation should go out to the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service. The local Scouts could be invited to host a Sausage Sizzle. Yellow Café could be invited to bring back their Horsebox for Pizza & Cheesecake. The Bouncy Castle was a huge hit at Christmas Fayre and could be repeated. There could even be stall holders such as at the Christmas Fayre. This would need to be run in May to avoid Bank Holidays and Dunfermline Gala. The date of Saturday 18th May was suggested. Motion carried.

***Christmas Fayre*** – looking to have this on the Friday evening. Date for this is proposed as Friday 29th November 2024. TBC.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION *Crossing Patrol Officer (CPO)/Lollipop Man*** – A few concerns have been raised with Parent Council over the location of the CPO. JJ has spoken to the CPO. He has informed that some parents can be very unpleasant to him, and they don’t listen; in comparison he found most children to accept his assistance to cross safely. His position is decided by Transportation at the Council; while it can be a little difficult to walk up to his position – he is currently in the safest place. Parent Council would like JJ to ask the Council again re the installation of a barrier to keep the children safe. As she has the support of the Parent Council; she has more power to fight the previous rejection.

***Parking*** - Kelloch Avenue parking is still a big issue. Driveways are being block with people unable to enter/leave in their cars. Additionally, parents park on the kerb and sit in the car making it almost impossible to get buggies/wheelchairs passed without walking on the road. These issues are now with the Community Police. The Community Police have reported the parents of Carnegie Primary were most unpleasant at times. JJ to go back to Community Police and will take up CPO/Barrier with Transportation at Fife Council. Parent Council have requested that Fleet Street is also included in the details shared with Community Police.

***Early Years Playground*** – There seems to be very little for the children to do in the Early Years playground. Other schools appear to have Trim Trail equipment or Mud Kitchens. Considering the aforementioned Fire regulation; this simply isn’t possible in a playground of that size.

Focus has recently been placed on encouraging children to play games that require no equipment; with the P6 helpers encouraged to assist with this – a delightful game of Duck Duck Goose took place today. However now that the good weather is starting to appear is equipment that goes out and they need to be shown what to do. Primary 6 Playground Pals have been helping with playing games that don’t need equipment. A £200 donation from the Parent Council could contribute to this successfully. This spend will enable the Playground boxes to be updated. Motion carried.

***Christmas Performances*** – The Nativity is a delight for all Primary 1 parents and children. It is always well attended, and it was wondered whether there could there be any other Christmas Events for parents of children further up the school? JJ responded with the need to be wary of requests from just 1 or 2 parents. Every year group gets the opportunity to have starring role at an event that parents are invited to at some point throughout the year. By running 7 or more shows each year at Christmas, time would be taken away from the children’s education for something that could be deemed less beneficial. There are other options for children in the older school such as Glee/Choir. There is a little less for P3/P4/P5 and this will be considered.

***Composite Classes*** – A member of Parent Council (IR) had raised a concern over children in higher year group of a composite class not being treated as their year group. This was reiterated by another parent (FM) who’s child had said they felt more like part of the younger year group. J informed that all curriculum is set to the children’s educational needs. As children all fall into such a small age bracket; no child is treated as a year group. Every child is an individual and taught to their ability. The children love to feel part of a class and they are very adaptable to the situation.

***Gala*** – Message has gone out about the competition to create the cover for the Gala Brochure. Additionally, a message is due to be received/sent out about “Wheels in the Park”, sponsored event to raise Gala funds. The Sponsor Form should have been sent to JJ. No action required from the school for the “Wheels in the Park” event. Request from the PC that the payment for the Gala is taken via iPay again this year as was so successful last year. If Lorraine could create a simple form again that would be appreciated to gather relevant choices.

**HEADTEACHER UPDATE**

***Learning Partnership Visit*** – The Learning Partnership visit this session took place on 12th March 2024; this session was taking a closer look at what we do to develop writing skills across the school. The school shared data and evidence gathered from pupils, staff and jotters with visiting heads and our education manager. Visitors then spent time in classes observing writing lessons.

Overall, the feedback was very positive. Visitors highlighted strengths as:

* Use of 4-part teaching model used across all classes.
* Effective use of assessment strategies was evident in all classes. Children used the language of learning very well.
* Classes were calm, well organised, and purposeful.
* Respectful culture in classrooms.

Next Steps:

* Increased opportunities for children to write. School to introduce a process of daily writing.
* Explicit teaching of writing skills. Increased use of teacher modelling.
* Increased/better use of IT to support and enhance learning.

***School Self-Evaluation*** – The school will be seeking parental feedback in relation to the general working of the school. There has been a recent parental concern raised in relation to ongoing bullying, which the school is addressing; but it is therefore appropriate to also seek the wider parents view at this time as it may be that parents are not sharing their concerns with the staff.

Parent feedback will be requested at the upcoming Parents nights on 19th / 21st March.

***School Attainment Levels*** – Attainment levels at the school continue to remain high and exceed the stretch targets set out by the government.

P1- Literacy 95% and Numeracy 96%

P4- Literacy 85% and Numeracy 87%

P7- Literacy 87% and Numeracy 86%

***Pupil Equity Fund*** – Donna Parker is not able to attend this meeting but will provide an update at the next meeting.

***School Improvement Plan*** – Relationships, Culture and Learning.

Focus for the coming term and year ahead is the development of writing. We are taking part in a programme called Writing Explicitly led by Steven Graham. This will be a yearlong development opportunity and will be funded by Attainment Challenge Funding.

**Achievements (Current/Ongoing)** –

* Netball, Football, Basketball, Hockey
* Providing additional opportunities to children Music afternoons, Sports days, Carnegie Creative
* Gaining accreditation for things we do - John Muir Award, RRS Gold Award
* Recently achieved Eco Flag!!
* Family Learning Sessions

**Transitions** – Transition planning is now complete and being implemented. Primary 7 will look slightly different due to change of building at Woodmill High. The distribution of 1-1 devices is proving very successful. This will be rolled out from Primary 5 in coming years.

**Working Together with Parent -** The school gets really good attendance at Sharing the Learning events/ Big Breakfasts/School Shows, etc. The Quiz last week was also well attended, which is great!

However, **no** parents volunteered to attend the Learning Partnership parent group, **no** parents volunteered to support school trips for Primary 5 until we reached out for a second/third time, and we struggle to get parents to come along to Parent Council meetings. What can we do together to turn this around?

Suggestions were to put out the leaflet again for Parent Council before every meeting via email and Facebook. Possibly bring a friend to the next meeting. Send out the agenda in advance of the session or at least provide 2 or 3 Hot Topics for discussion.

Additionally for an Online Safety event (for P5, P6 & P7) hosted by the school recently. Of a possible 200 families notified; about 10 parents attended.

**AOB** – No AOB was raised, and the meeting closed at 8:45pm.