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Carnegie Primary School – Parent Council Mtg

Tuesday 5th September 2023; 7pm

Attendees – Avril Foster, Donna Parker, Laura Inglis, Mrs Paterson, Lynette Thomson, Fiona McLellan, Nadia Hogg, Amanda Stewart, Pamela McKenzie, Gavin Byrne

New PC Attendees – Christin Humphreys, Sultanie Nita, Daniela Marcovici, Ana Ghiorghe

Apologies – Julie Journeaux, Sierra Martin, Rachel Fraser, Toni Paterson, Michelle Humphries,

New PC Member Apologies – Kerryann Sim

**WELCOME**

LT welcomed everyone to the meeting.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

***Bank Balance*** – Currently £4,954.56

***Monies Outstanding (to be paid)*** – Primary 7 leavers - £500 from Parent Council.

***Additional Purchase Ideas*** – New benches for the Infant Playground. Costings are being reviewed as Council Benches considered very expensive. Could a donation of benches from the Parent Council be accepted? AF to feedback.

Following introduction to ‘Kit Bag’ at PC (31-May-2023); looking to understand costs to have at least 1 ‘Kit Bag’ for every year group.

***Defibrillator*** – This is likely now out of the question as the installation fees are £2,000. This should be reviewed again with Halbeath Community Council for final agreement on outcome.

Total Cost c. £3,800 (Defib c. £1,800; Install c. £2,000)

***Gala*** – 2023 Dunfermline Gala feedback has been positive. Whilst the Infant Playground was satisfactory; with the volume of Children in attendance – perhaps more space is needed for future years.

* *NO whistles* in future years (although this was very much theme related). This may have led to the claustrophobic feeling of the Infant Playground.
* The games felt a little disjointed, so would look to have specific helpers to organise these in future years.

***Halloween Disco’s*** – Going to trial iPayImpact for payment of this. iPay will take a 2.5% fee. Lorraine in the office will set this up for PC.

* 2 Discos to be scheduled. Primary 1 – Primary 3

Primary 4 – Primary 7

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

***Background to Parent Council*** – Lynette shared details of requirements for a Parent Council at Carnegie including some of the rules a Parent Council is required to follow.

Roles of a Parent Council – Details of what is involved in each role was reviewed:

* Secretary
* Treasurer
* Chairperson

Members were asked to nominate and second for the above roles.

Roles remain unchanged from last year:

* Secretary – Fiona McLellan
* Treasurer – Sierra Martin
* Chairperson – Lynette Thomson

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

***Seesaw*** – The question was raised as to how many updates should be sent via Seesaw on a weekly basis. DP responded that a minimum of 3 updates should be sent per week. Whether this is photographs, notes, homework; ideally 1 post should be released on a Friday.

Primary 1 may not yet see photograph updates while the school understands photo permissions for these pupils. But these will begin shortly.

***Parking Pledge*** – This was sent out to families to respond. Approximately 100 families joined up to this and were issued with stickers for their vehicles. They have pledged to park in Safe Zones away from busy areas such as: Kellock Avenue, Fleet Street, McBaith Way. Ideally somewhere like the College Carpark; which is designated for School use at Drop-off and Pick-up times.

***Road Safety*** - Junior Road Safety Officers from the school will be out over the course of the term to review the situation and feedback.

Fife Council have accepted the need for Carnegie Primary School to have a Lollipop person at the Kellock Avenue crossing. Applications can be made via the Fife Council website.

Parent Council will also contact the local councillor for Carnegie to update the ‘Safe route to school’ route. This will ensure that pavements for the majority of children travelling to school on foot would be cleared of snow should the weather impact.

**HEADTEACHER REPORT – School Updates**

***Headteacher*** – Julie is recovering well and anticipates returning to school in October. In the meantime AF and DP continue to perform the AHT (Acting Headteacher) role in her absence.

***Staff Updates*** – Departing Teachers:

* Mr Donald
* Ms Robb
* Mrs McWilliams
* Mr Mitchell
* Ms Watt

Retained/New Teachers:

* Mr Allan (P1/2)
* Mr Taylor (P2)
* Ms Geddes (P3)
* Mrs Robinson-Brown (P4)
* Miss Cross (P6)

***School Attainment Levels*** –This was completed in June for the last session of 2022/2023. There was a small dip in attainment levels in P1 and P4; but P7 remain on track. The school is also exceeding attainment levels for any child on a stretch target.

The attainment levels are measured back to 2018 and this shows that the pandemic had little to no influence on them during this period.

There are a number of focusses for the upcoming year – writing and attendance.

While trends for writing remain good for the year – the focus for 2023/2024 on writing will be completed with SEAC support.

Another for this year is attendance. An action plan is currently being built around a walking bus for the school specifically for children where attendance is an issue; although other children can also benefit from this.

This will be a teacher supported route and this targeted approach will enable success to be easily measured. Any parent wishing to support the walking bus will require to be PVG checked.

Handout provided by the school around Curriculum for Excellence: 

***Successes & Achievements*** – There seems to be gaps in the Successes & Achievements of children in the middle school. This is being looked at in order to build more opportunities for children who wish to attend/contribute.

Pre-Covid opportunities were extended to middle school pupils and Claire Thomson is looking into this moving forward.

***Transition in 2024*** – This will look different for children in Primary 7 as they will begin High School at the new Dunfermline Learning Campus.

The new Fife College will not be ready for August 2024; however the schools will be ready on schedule for the start of the Autumn term. Woodmill HS do a very good transition and which was commended last year and although different this year it is expected to be of a similar standard.

***Pupil Equity Fund*** – This year the PEF plan has £135,000. It is used to:

* support vulnerable families
* pay for PSA staff
* contributes to Principal Teachers
* contribution to Breakfast Club and the Big Breakfast

In the past it has assisted with family cooking sessions, family swimming sessions and outdoor learning. It is to help close the attainment gap for families in need.

The school is currently identifying the children wo will benefit from this fund the most.

***A Culture of Respect*** – Carnegie PS lays out clear expectations to all staff and pupils regarding the respect of others. The school uses a restorative approach to conflict with teachers, senior staff and management involved as required. Where bullying is suspected, the school follows clear policies and processes.

The school will continue to equip the children to know and understand the school values of “Kindness, Respect & Ambition” and it is talked through weekly with the children and developed further at Huddle. The school feel that it is import to get these messages correct for all children.

While the school does it’s best to educate the children on the differences between conflict and bullying; it would encourage parents to continue this message at home.

Handout from School: 

***Online issues*** – Cyber bullying; this can reach children as young as Primary 4 or even Primary 3. There is a focus to assist the parents to help their children. A few key points:

* Parents are being out-tech’d by their children. The children are now teaching the parents but the parents should do more discovery into the tools their children are using.
* Apps have age limits for a reason and parents know this; this is for a reason and they should be observed.
* Parents are requested to remind their children that once something is posted online; it will remain there FOREVER (in one format or another) – even if you delete it.
* Ultimate responsibility for Cyber-bullying lies with the parents where children are under-age.

Mobile Phone policy:

1. These can be brought to the school
2. They can be given to the teacher for safe-keeping but the school accepts no responsibilityfor the device if this is the case
3. Mobile phones are not permitted to be out during the school day

***School Improvement Plan*** – See atchement. This was released to Parent Council for review. It looks at Relationships, Culture (3 Core Values) & Achievement.

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**AOB**

Next Parent Council Meetings is:

* Wednesday 08November 2023