

Kingsbarns Parent Council



Meeting Minutes

17th January 2023, 3.15pm

Attendees

School: Mrs Shafren, Mr Pitblado, Ms Henshaw, Miss Hazel, Miss Radley, Ms Ramsay.

Parents: Clare Kelly, Rory Fyfe, Rachael Gautreau, Lynne Matthews, Kat Fox, Nicola Pates, Lisa Berry, Sheona Given.

Apologies: None.

Review of previous minutes

Outstanding action: RG to discuss school photography with Christian Olliver. Christian is happy to continue taking the school shots and suggested summer term, outside.

Outcome: Parent council to approach Christian before the easter holidays to discuss a date, format and consent forms.

Outstanding action: A fundraising committee was to be formed.

Outcome: Currently there is no need for fundraising. When needed a request will be put out on WhatsApp to request volunteers.

Outstanding action: Fiona was to investigate paving stones being set in the grass by the chickens. This would mean children could enter via the green all year.

Outcome: Fiona contacted both Fife council and Cambo in regards to the land and options for pathways. While exploring options both children and parents have stuck with the playground and so the problem of access isn't there. It was suggested we go forward with a seasonal entrance and exit. For example, in late autumn/winter we access school via the front playground and during spring till early autumn the school would be accessed via the green. All agreed this could be flexible.

Headteacher Update

Children and staff settled in well after the holidays.

Parents evening will be 27/28 March. Fiona will send out appointment time requests as usual closer to the time. These will be in person appointments but staff are happy to accommodate telephone appointments if needed.

Enrolment for P1 is now open, do let anyone interested know.

This term has a STEM focus. Staff are looking at opportunities to involve parents. They are considering a STEM afternoon and a school challenge inviting other schools to participate. These would be small schools from the clusters. Details will follow as available.

The teachers would like to expand the 'Developing the young workforce' idea. Mrs Shafren asked if parents would like to come to school and give a talk on their careers or a demo.

Action: Parents can get in touch with school if they are able to take part.

Cost of the School Day: Mrs Shafren is keen to explore the cost of the school day and would like to know how parents feel about the costs to send their children to school.

Action: School to send out an anonymous questionnaire.

Fife council will be having a parent consultation on special needs. Information will follow as available.

Treasurer update

Currently there is a total of £339 available.

£168 is reserved for leavers hoodies.

£10 is for the community garden.

Burns Night

The parent council are running a Burns night celebration for children, staff and parents/guardians. 25th January, 5-7pm in the Kingsbarns Memorial Hall. There will be readings and singing from the children, ceilidh dancing, refreshments and a raffle.

Action: Rosie to provide a list of readers/singers and dances. Headteacher to check if Fife council will pay for the hall hire. Also, Headteacher to check if FC would pay for weekly hire of the hall so children could have an afterschool club run by parents.

Important term dates

Parents have requested a full list of dates at the start of the year and/or each term. This could include parents evening, holidays, inset days, school trips, dress up/charity days etc.

Action: Fiona is working on a Newsletter which will include an important dates section and will go out when ready. Glow has an option to include calendar dates. Fiona will populate glow with dates and send a link to parents which can be checked whenever needed. This will take some time to complete.

Before and after school clubs

The crafting club had a good response. There is limited space so cannot accommodate all children at once. It was suggested that parents could run a club in the village hall.

Action: PC could send out a form to see if people are interested in after school clubs. Parent council to get advice from the Parent Council Association on running after school clubs.

Pedestrian Crossing

Money is currently reserved in Fife Council for a crossing. It has been moved into pre planning with Fife Council. Following community consultation, the council plan to come out and assess the best location. Jasmine Burnley from the Kingsbarns Council is in contact with them regarding this.

Rights respecting school (RRS)

Parents asked for an update on this, and if there is anything we can do to help the process of becoming a rights respecting school. Rosie is in charge of this, spending ½ a day with each class per week. There is a RRS rep for each class voted for by the children. Rosie meets with the reps every week. There has been little time in the autumn term to spend on this but it will move forward more this term. There will be a meeting with parents and children to plan and work towards the award. The Scottish government now want all schools across the country to be rights respecting schools. Rosie signed up for training for the RRS scheme and there should be a parent RRS person. There is online training that staff will need to go through. Rosie works through an 'article of the week' every week with the classes, this can be shared with parents too.

Action: School to set up a RRS meeting for parents. Rosie to share the 'article of the week' with parents too. Rosie to provide info on what a RRS parent would do and Parent Council Committee to ask parents who would like to be put forward for the role.

Thank you and Successes

Cambo Challenge Cup: Thank you to Rosie for the event. The children all enjoyed themselves and it was a success.

School Trips: Thank you to the school and staff for the recent trips. The children all said the museums, panto, cinema and ice-cream trips were brilliant. It has been a very eventful term and all parents agreed the children got a lot out of the activities. A huge thank you to the hard work Jill put into the organisation of the Dundee trip and to Miss Hazel and the generosity of Janetta's in donating ice-cream to the school cinema trip.

Christmas Fair & Service: The fair was a fantastic and successful event which really brought the school community together and the Christmas service was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to all the volunteers, staff and children who made these things so special.

AOB

Residential Trip: There will be no residential trip this year as it ran in 2022. it alternates years so children attend in either P6/7.

Hill walks: The hill walks will go ahead this year. Lynne explained Lucy Spark is primed and ready to take the children hill walking, so it would be good for this to be planned into the school calendar.

Action: School to plan in hill walking dates.

Religion in school: Patricia explained a few parents contacted to her regarding holding the end of term celebration in the church as we are not a religious school. She appreciated the parents contacting her directly expressing their concerns. The school don't want anybody to feel uncomfortable, they are planning to hold some future end of term celebrations at school & possibly in the Village Hall if that's an option and will hold 1 or 2 in the Church, most likely the Christmas celebration. Patricia asked if any parents had contacted the Parent Council regarding this. Parent Council explained a few parents had & suggested it would be a nice idea if the children were more involved in deciding what the content of the end of term celebration is e.g. what songs to sing. Parents are always able to request their children not attend religious services but religious education is a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Patricia has been researching Fife council documentation on religious education as part of the curriculum. They do, and will continue to cover different religions in RME. However, the Scottish curriculum does favour a higher percentage of time be spent on Christianity.

Rosie was looking into a Synagogue trip with the children.

Action: Headteacher to look further into where we hold celebrations at school.

Close of meeting