

Kingsbarns Parents' Council
Meeting one of 2024-2025
21 October 2024
7:00-9:00 pm
By Microsoft Teams (only)

Parents Council members present: Lisa Berry (Chair); Gill Erskine (Secretary) Jonathan Kilfedder; Clare Kelly; Becki Sharp; Jamie Eng (minute-taking for this meeting)
Parents present: Debbie Potter.
Staff present: Patricia Shafren (Head Teacher); Lynne Beckett (Depute Head Teacher); Lizzie Coe (P4-7 Class Teacher)

Agenda items listed below (in bold)

Apologies: Charlotte Woodcock (Vice-Chair); Rory Fyfe (Treasurer); Sheona Given.

Treasurer's Report: 778 in the ac; 266 bank; 512 cash

Head Teacher's Update

The School Improvement Plan is available on the School Blog. One of the current priorities is a digital charter. Last year the School created a writing plan. Ms Alexander has been coming in to the older class and working with the students on different text types.

The School has had a good first term. All of the teaching staff have been excellent and the new students have settled in really well. The celebration at the end of the term was lovely. It was impressive to see what had been achieved after only seven weeks. It was a great showcase of what goes on at the School.

The School is delivering a Building Resilience programme. We have asked that students and families/carers complete an activity, per the information sent out via Seesaw and email. The teachers are receiving great feedback from students about how the strategies in the programme are helping them. However, few students have brought evidence of what they have done at home/out in the community in accordance with the request to parents. Students can bring in anything to demonstrate what they've done, for example: physical objects, a photograph, a story, a presentation.

The School has published its values and is in the process of confirming it's aims. The values were published last year. The children are good at knowing what the values are. The School is keen to get parents views on the appropriate aims for the School. There is a questionnaire that was sent out about the aims via email. The School is keen to get people's opinions.

Back hedges, planter boxes, and nettles

The state of the hedges and nettles has been reported to the janitorial service.

Parents could take care of the nettles, but the hedge needs a proper hedge trimmer. There is a question mark over whether the hedge is the school's to manage.

The planter boxes are the School's. They were originally made by parents. Becki Sharp is happy to lead an outdoor learning session with the students, planting bulbs in the boxes. Cambo will supply the bulbs. **See action point one.**

Back gate walkway

It gets muddy between the back gate and the school. The status of the area is not clear. It was probably gifted to the School. The School may need planning permission for a paved path.

Gill Erskine to check the status of the area. Patricia Shafren to ask the Council whether a path can be put in. **See action point two.**

Basketball hoop and football goals (and Kingsbarns Community Development Trust) money

The School has asked the Council to repair the basketball hoop.

The School is aware of the KCDT money available for sports equipment. Rory Fyfe is dealing with obtaining that money.

The School is happy for the Parents' Council to obtain goals that are the safe, the right size, and capable of being appropriately stored.

The student Sports Leaders will come up with a plan about size, storage, and type of football goals the student body seeks. Lisa Berry will come in to School and speak to the Sports Leaders about that. Lisa will seek a decision on exactly what to buy from the wider parent body. **See action point three.**

Christmas fundraising art

Lisa Berry has found a fundraising option that would return 1 GBP per item sold to the School. That is a substantial increase compared with last year's fundraiser.

Some parents would prefer that we don't do the art fundraiser. In particular, there is a social pressure to buy your children's art, even though it's not compulsory. There was a discussion of whether to offer parents the choice of Christmas fundraiser: art, disco, or fayre. **See action point four.**

Christmas Fayre

See above re Christmas art. Discussion of whether a disco might be a more cheap and cheerful option. **See action point four.**

Nurture area

Parents had raised whether there could be nurture area at the school, possibly with a box for students to submit anonymous questions to staff.

There is very little space in the School. It would be good to know more about what parents are keen on: who is it for, to do what? The Staff Room is sometimes used for this sort of thing, but there are limits to the times when that can be used. The School does have plans to take away the kitchen from its current location and create a new area in there. That could be suitable for a learning/nurture area.

Daily mile

Parents had asked about the status of the Daily Mile (and whether it is still done daily).

The school advised the Mile is done twice a week. That is common in most schools. There is two hours a week of PE. The Daily Mile is on top of that.

Outdoor lunches

Parents had asked about outdoor lunches.

At present, students eat in the classroom & office/kitchen area. Staff start to let children start to go out to play after about 15-20 minutes. There are resourcing constraints, but it might be possible to have one staff member go outside Monday-Thursday so that the students with packed lunches can eat outside.

There was a discussion about the benefits of eating together (everyone has the same opportunity to play regardless of the type of lunch they eat) and the benefits of allowing packed lunch students to eat outside. There was also a discussion about school-lunch students eating outside when the food options make that feasible.

The School will consult with the students about what they would like to do in the summer months, when it is possible for the packed lunch children to eat outside. **See action point five.**

Benches

These would be required for outdoor eating. There was also a discussion of the possibility of picnic-style eating in the summer (blankets rather than benches). Ultimately the way this issue resolves will depend on the results of the consultation with students about what they wish to do in the summer.

Leavers' hoodies

Lisa Berry is happy to organise it this year. Gillian Kilfedder may be able to help with it.

One parent had raised the desirability of using a FairTrade option. Lisa's initial research had indicated this would cost an extra 10 GBP per hoodie.

Gill Erskine will send Lisa and Gillian a link to the TeeMill website, which her business has used.

See action point six.

Halloween dress-up

There was a discussion about whether the School would allow students to dress up on Halloween. A majority of parents present preferred the School not to allow dress-ups for Halloween, particularly in light of the variety of guising and Halloween party options in the village and beyond.

AOB

A parent requested if times tables homework could be issued. Lizzie Coe said this could happen. This reminded Patricia of a homework survey she has prepared and would like to gain parent feedback on. **See action point seven.**

Action items

1. Planter boxes: Becki Sharp to do outdoor learning session with the planter boxes. Cambo to donate some bulbs.
2. Back gate walkway: Gill to check the status of the area where the chickens used to be. Patricia to ask the Council whether a path can be put in.
3. Sports equipment: The student Sports Leaders will come up with a plan about size, storage, and type of football goals the student body seeks. Lisa Berry will come in to School and speak to the Sports Leaders about that. Lisa will seek a decision on exactly what to buy from the wider parent body.

4. Christmas fundraising: School to take a poll of parents shortly on whether parents would prefer Christmas Art; Christmas Disco; or Christmas Fayre. Parent Council to formulate questions and send them to the School.
5. Outdoor lunch: the School will consult with the students about what they would like to do in the summer months, when it is possible for the packed lunch children to eat outside.
6. Leavers' hoodies: Lisa Berry and Gillian Kilfedder will research potential suppliers and come back to the parent body about design options.
7. School to put out home school learning questionnaire.
8. The Council will consult parents on the timing and location of the next meeting.