

St Margarets Primary School Parent and Carer Council – Thursday 16th May 2024 (18:00 – 19:00)

Attendance and apologies

L McCran, L Gemmell, K Mitchell, M Hutchins, S Sutherland (minutes)

Apologies: M Steven

Purpose of Meeting

Meeting was requested by the school to discuss two primary requests for funding support from the parent and carers council (P&CC). In addition, it was raised on the call that Fife council are withdrawing their funding of Seesaw – a parental engagement platform used within the infant's school.

P6 Citizens Project / Award

- H Hutcheon provided an overview of the P6 Citizens Award that the primary 6 pupils are working towards. The purpose of the project/award is to research charities and opportunities for fundraising activities that they can undertake to support.
- The children have finalised on supporting SCIAFF, a local charity who support refugees in crisis. They have agreed, out of all of the fundraising ideas, to design and sell coasters.
- **ASK OF P&CC**
 - Activity requires initial upfront funding of £300, which will provide a contingency to purchase up to 120 coasters (currently have 103 orders), so that the order for coasters can be placed.
 - Initially it was proposed that the funding would be reimbursed back to P&CC funds. This would provide c.£50 to give to SCIAFF.
 - S Sutherland proposed that the £300 is an investment in a St Margaret's Citizen Project Fund, so any monies raised through the selling of the coasters can be used for both agreeing amount to donate to the charity of their choice, plus holding a fund for future years Citizen projects.
 - All were in agreement.
- **ACTIONS / NEXT STEPS**
 - All P&CC members were supportive of the ask for funds.
 - L McCran & S Sutherland will attend a P6 presentation and 'ask' for funding support from the children on Tuesday 20 May. This will provide the children with additional learning experience, as it will not be shared with them that P&CC have already agreed funds prior to them presenting.
 - H Hutcheon will place order for coasters w/c 20 May to ensure completed and received before end of school term.
 - L Gemmell will get a latest view of P&CC available funds and share with P&CC.

School Investment

- K Mitchell provided an overview of the changing nature of our learners needs at St Margaret's and that we should be striving to meet the needs of every child, ensuring equality.
- At present we have a starlight room, which is set up as a basic sensory room – but it could be much better.

- The school has undertaken significant research and consultation with staff, educational psychologists and the Assist Team to understand the needs of our children and what could be done to help creating a safe space for learners to learn in their way.
- The school have a plan, which they are asking for funding support from the P&CC.
- **PLAN**
 - Starlight room (sensory room) revamp, including sensory wall, floor tiles and peanut chairs
 - PSA base next to Starlight room to be created into a play-based room – the interconnecting door between both rooms will be removed.
 - Library will be moved from first floor and relocated to the after-school club area
 - The vacant space from where the library used to be, will be converted into a Health & Wellbeing hub (designed around de-regulation strategies)
 - Children will have input into the design of the hub
 - The Health & Wellbeing hub will be timetabled so that all children across the school will benefit from the space
- **ASK of P&CC**
 - To undertake the activities outlined above will cost in the region of £2,000.
 - The school are asking for investment support from P&CC of between £1,500 and £2,000.
- **ACTIONS / NEXT STEPS**
 - K Mitchell has detailed plans created if further information is required
 - All P&CC members are supportive of the funding **in principle** however due to the sum of money requested we need to revisit available funds vs our upcoming commitments before providing final agreement.
 - L Gemmell will get a latest view of P&CC available funds and share with P&CC.
 - P&CC members to regroup to discuss upcoming commitments and what level of support we can provide to this initiative.

Fife Council Funding

- K Mitchell informed the P&CC that Fife Council are withdrawing funding for Seesaw, a parental engagement app that is used within the infant school.
- The app has become an integral link between the school and parents, providing a flexible two-way technology-based engagement platform.
- The app forms part of a pilot being undertaken by the school, where it is looking at alternative solutions to the paper-based Learning Journal. The pilot is taking place in the infant's school, with the intention of rolling out school wide.
- **ASK of P&CC**
 - K Mitchell advised that the app cost of £1,200 for the infant's school would be met by the school.
 - The school ask is at the point the Seesaw pilot is ready to be rolled out school wide, would the P&CC be able to fund the upper school cost of £1,200
- **Discussion Points**
 - General points raised were around ongoing commitments of P&CC and our ability to support future initiatives of projects
 - Could a separate fundraising initiative specifically aimed at raising funds for Seesaw be undertaken annually – such as a sponsored walk?

- Questions were raised about whether parents would be supportive of this type of fundraising activity – could be questioned that the apps should be funded by the council?
- Proposal raised that we move back to a part-funded P&CC P7 hoodie and that the P7s run fundraising activities throughout the year – one could be a sponsored walk.
 - This would free up general P&CC funds, which could be allocated towards Seesaw. However, similar point to specific Seesaw fundraising initiative – would parents still see Seesaw as being a council funded?
- Business Fundraising applications. Can we reach out to local builders/companies to highlight funding gap for technology in school to ask for their support?
- **ACTIONS / NEXT STEPS**
 - No specific funding (either in principle or full) has been provided by P&CC for this ask.
 - K Mitchell will write out jointly, on behalf of school & P&CC, to local businesses asking for funding support.
 - Agenda item re P7 hoodie funding to be added to next P&CC to get agreement to move to part-funded P&CC / part P7 fundraised.
 - Depending on the local business funds ask, further discussion and agreement on P&CC funding towards this ask will need to be undertaken.