# Pollokshields Parent Council minutes

17 January 2022

Attending: Mr Naughton, Ms McAnish, Miss Mitchell, Miss Smith, Ambreen (from 4pm), Fleur, Heather, Kate, Kirsty, Laura, Nathalie, Rachel, Raheela, Sam, Saskia + 1 more parent whose name we didn’t catch

Apologies: Iffit, Samina, Shamim

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved. No matters arising.
2. HT report: Miss Smith gave an update on progress with the school improvement plan covering learning/teaching/assessment, management, and strengthening the school community. Please see attached pdf for brief details.
3. Treasurer’s report: Sam reported no change in finances since December meeting.
4. Fundraising priorities.
   * Nathalie reported there are many possible organisations to approach. We need to match funders to needs and decide on priorities. This could include building up the PC’s resources (e.g. gazebos); material/equipment for children’s needs; or services we would like to purchase like workshops for community club.
   * It would be useful to have access to basic statistical information for the school e.g. number of children, size of playground, number of children in receipt of free school meals or with barriers to learning, etc. **Action: Miss Smith to supply these.**
   * Small funds tend to have rolling deadlines, with applications considered every 2-3 months. No urgent deadlines that Nathalie is aware of.
   * Miss Smith reported that priorities from the school’s side would be community club for term 4 and mitigating the costs of P7 end of year trip. The cost currently to parents is £200, which has already been subsidised by £150 per child, but is still a hefty cost and it would be good to be able to reduce this in a sustainable way. Miss Smith reported that the school fund is healthy at the moment: school is still in receipt of a large donation from last year, which will go towards summer trips for all children.
   * It was agreed that events such as Spring Fling should all be aiming to fundraise. PC should develop a sustainable plan for short, medium and long term goals and should consult with families to determine priorities. Miss Smith could help with sending out links for an electronic consultation. (Other consultations underway e.g. on school vision and PEF spending.)
   * Mr Naughton noted from previous experience that it works well to tie in fundraising to elements of the curriculum. E.g., sponsored walks to raise money for Erasmus trip to Spain, which also brings children/families together to organise this. To get buy-in from the whole school it works best to fundraise around a curricular element applying to all the classes.
   * **Action: for next month’s meeting all event committees to think about how their event could raise money, and bring ideas for fundraising linked to curriculum.**
5. Events.

* All upcoming eventsare now covered by committees, with enough people in each of them to spread the load.
* Those involved in previous events (community club, gala bazaar, etc) described how they had run. Laura noted that clubs at community club tend to run better with 2 adults involved. Gala bazaar has previously had food served indoors which needs thought under Covid as it can get crowded. Mr Naughton noted that a contingency plan is always needed for gala bazaar as the outdoor elements are weather dependent.

1. World Book Day. This will be celebrated over a week. School will be encouraging children to share books they enjoy, and doing activities e.g. create a book character from a spoon. Costumes won’t be a feature this year. Some PC members were disappointed while others welcomed this. Other suggestions included a reading marathon for the week, making personal bookmarks, cooperative book making per class, and a sponsored read as a fundraiser. Will the activity where each child creates their own book each year continue? Book launch in June much enjoyed.
2. Safe streets/active travel. Ms McAnish reported that P6 had been discussing ideas for encouraging road safety.  They have had a meeting with the council representative to discuss road safety, are writing letters to parents to encourage not to drive down the street and are making adverts too.
3. Litter. More bins are needed in the streets around school. The bins are now larger but fewer than a few years ago. While children are not leaving rubbish, litter blows into the playground from surrounding shops. **Action: PC to write to Glasgow City Council/MP about supplying more bins, and to local businesses to ask if they can put bins in front of their shops and remind customers not to litter.** E.g. Subway is a large company and this is not good publicity for them.
4. Website. The procedure for uploading minutes is: Circulate them as swiftly as possible by email/whatsapp, ask for comments/edits; once agreed Miss Mitchell can then upload to website.
5. School Eco council: will this be reintroduced? Miss Smith reported that school is reintroducing committees/councils but trying to do so in a way that is sustainable. In future there will be an Eco committee but for the moment a whole school approach to environmental issues is being taken. New recycling bins are being used for every class. Unfortunately dinner school is again using bottled water rather than reusable cups. This is difficult for school to control as Cordia are in charge. We could liaise with Cordia, but they are very short staffed at present. **Action: Nathalie to write to Jon Molyneux**
6. Any Other Business. There will be a presentation from the school to Alec (Albert Drive crossing supervisor) on Thursday 3 February to mark his 25 years at the school. **Action: Fozia to organise a hamper of gifts from PC.** PC agreed to loan its gazebo to We All Belong demonstration against Nationality and Borders Bill on 22 January, this being an issue that families at the school may be affected by.