

## **Braidhurst Parents' Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**School Library, 6.30pm**

**Present:** Claire Wright (Chair), David Clark (Vice-Chair), Jackie Thomson, Moira May, David Richards, Natalie McPake, Lesley Burns, Carolyn Rooney, Ruth Anderson, Andy Hamilton, Ruth Watson (Treasurer), Linda McGurk, and Kirsten Scott (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Laura Neilson, David Young, and Agnes Magowan (SNP councillor – Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig).

1. Welcome. CW welcomed everyone with a special mention to the two new members NMc and LB.

2/3. Minutes from previous meeting adopted by DC.

#### **4. Head Teacher's Report**

CR updated parents on the different events happening at school including: senior pupils attending a Modern Apprenticeship show, S1 pupils watching a Smoking Prevention play, an S1 Information evening and a S4/5/6 Information evening (attendance was disappointing at latter).

CR also updated parents on the school's upcoming building works. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September CR and RA attended a meeting with architect/builders. There is a program of work in place but this may be pushed back. The work has a tentative starting date of October. There is a lot of work to be done in school organising classrooms etc. "a lot ahead."

DC asked if there was any way in which the parents' group could help e.g.: providing boxes or manpower to help move rooms etc.

CR responded in the affirmative but only when it is clear what needs to be done e.g.: there are questions concerning whether or not the front door and its surroundings including window is being replaced or if it is the door alone, also when will the new lift be installed, will this be left till summer 2018, as this would be helpful in terms of moving classrooms etc.

CR also informed the group that the school's senior photography class have been tasked with taking photographs of the existing walls and windows in classroom and that the architects are planning to make a 3D scan of the school. The builders Keir are also keen to take on work placements with senior pupils who would like to gain experience of different trades.

CR, RA and janitor Fraser Lawson will attend weekly meetings with the architects/builders for updates.

## 5. A Hamilton Presentation to Parents on the Pupil Equity Fund.

AH explained that the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) is money that will go to the school to help provide the best possible opportunities for children's learning. In particular, it is there to help the school support children who experience barriers to learning and who might be falling behind or not getting the same chances in their education because their family is experiencing poverty or other financial difficulties. This money is given to schools as part of the Scottish Government's Scottish Attainment Challenge.

The Scottish government wants to see every child succeed and achieve their full potential. That's why we have decided to give extra money to schools to help them to make education fairer.

PEF is designed to support children in P1 to S3 who are eligible and registered for free school meals. However, Head teachers can use their judgement to support other children in their school who are affected by poverty.

How much money the school receives will depend on how many children are registered for free school meals. For every child that is registered the school will receive £1,200 in addition to their normal budget.

PEF progress so far:

Staff have been informed of the national context and philosophy behind the Braidhurst vision for, and initial direction of, PEF at whole school meeting during August in-service.

SIMD information for S2-6 updated and distributed to all staff, which includes tracking and monitoring information for each department.

Hub provision has been extended into S3 (the nurture unit is led by Mrs A Currie).

Breakfast club is now running 5 days a week as of the 5<sup>th</sup> September (the breakfast club is led by Mrs J Jeffrey).

A bid proforma, including rationale for spending, strategies for aiming at target group and means of measuring impact has been created and sent out to all staff.

SIMD for all current S1 compiled and distributed to staff for inclusion on tracking and monitoring system.

A chess club has been launched with a focus on lower decile pupils who show promise in Maths from S1-3 (chess club led by Dr. B Miller)

Pupil Council formed, with a view to ensuring that there is a proportional representation of SIMD 1 and 2 (Pupil Council led by Mrs L Neilson).

Read, Write, Inc. training carried out in house by T Cowan and 24 S1 pupils are undergoing YARC Assessment (Read, Write. Inc. led by Mrs L Paterson).

PEF committee split into sub committees, which will focus on discreet key priorities (1, 4, 7 – Mrs Y McKenna and 2, 3, 9 – Mr A Hamilton).

Family Learning Initiative – cookery skills (cookery program led by Mrs L McGurk).

Strategy agreed for deployment of Attainment Mentor.

Over 50% of September reward trip to Blackpool were pupils from SIMD 1 and 2 and lower deciles (reward trip led by A Hamilton).

Literacy award strategy meeting arranged with librarian Mrs K Scott.

#### Immediate Priorities:

Evaluate bids submitted (Mrs C Rooney, Mrs Y McKenna and Mr A Hamilton).

Establish total amount in fund (Mr R Miller).

Compile enhanced risk matrix, highlighting pupils at risk of not achieving to potential (Mrs Y McKenna and Mr A Hamilton).

Compile list of classroom based strategies designed to maximise the potential of target group across the curriculum.

Ensure pupils make the most of Free School Meal entitlement (Mrs Y McKenna and Mr A Hamilton).

Attendance: agree upon a system which make concerted efforts and targeted interventions to improve the attendance of target group (Mr D Gardiner, Mrs Y McKenna and Mr A Hamilton).

## 6. Financial Report

RW outlined the current financial position of the group.

£3050.26 in the bank.

£605.00 generated so far this year.

£305.00 income from school lockers was recently banked.

Group discussed how to better maximise the income generated from the school lockers. The availability of lockers should be advertised to parents with a notice in the next newsletter, announce at year group assemblies etc. as the group could potentially raise £1000.00 from the sale of lockers.

CR submitted a bid to the group on behalf of Mrs E Magowan, Head of Modern Languages. The bid requested £530.00 for the purchase of 1 mini ipad and 30 language textbooks.

The group approved the bid but asked in future that staff provide greater justification for why they deserve the funding.

CR to notify Mrs E Magowan.

## 7. School Car Parking

The group discussed the existing road markings near and around the school on Dalriada Crescent. The markings have faded significantly. This exacerbates the traffic problems at the start and end of the school day. The group agreed to lobby local councillors for hatches (yellow boxes), no stopping areas etc to be painted onto the road and for markings to be re-done. The group also agreed that it could contact Barbara Ramage regarding this matter and that DC will contact Campbell Dwyer.

8. Next meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm in the school library.