

Braidhurst Parents' Group

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 30th January 2018

School Library, 6.30pm

Present: Claire Wright (Chair), David Clark (Vice-Chair), Jackie Thomson, Lesley Burns, Laura Biggart, Lynn Hogg, Carolyn Rooney, Ruth Anderson, Yvonne McKenna, Ruth Watson (Treasurer), Kenneth Duffy (Labour Councillor - Ward 19 Motherwell South East & Ravenscraig), Megan Gallacher (Scottish Conservative Councillor - Ward 17 Motherwell West), Lesleyann Dougan, and Kirsten Scott (Clerk).

Apologies: Linda McGurk and Moira May.

1. CW officially opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves to the two visiting attendees Kenneth Duffy and Megan Gallacher.
2. DC approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

DC attended the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) training course on the 16th November 2017. DC raised the query that as adults working with secondary age children are group members required to be registered with the PVG scheme.

The group discussed that this is a grey area. CW confirmed that this is normally only expected of parent council's at primary schools. Therefore, no members of our group are required to register. LH is a member of the PVG scheme.

DC offered an update on the road safety issue. For the benefit of the group DC reminded members that Campbell Dwyer inspected the traffic surrounding the school during morning drop off time at school. C Dwyer believed that there were no road safety issues and therefore no new lines would be marked on the road outside the school or other traffic calming measures taken. C Dwyer would refresh the existing line markings – this is expected to take place from March onwards. C Dwyer did not feel that a second visit was necessary.

The group felt that this was an unsatisfactory response.

CR is greatly concerned for the road safety of Braidhurst pupils.

RA confirmed that the school had already received visits from numerous people connecting to road safety and Traffic Scotland including Barbara Ramage (Road Safety Education Officer for North Lanarkshire Council and also the mother to two of the school's former pupils). It had been suggested that the kerb outside the school be dropped however the SMT felt that this would no change the problem as the root of the issue is that the junction is too wide.

JT felt that watching pupils cross the road outside the school was terrifying.

CW suggested that we could as a parent council contact the local police to lodge an official concern.

RA suggested that we could invite B Ramage out to school again.

MG suggested that a sign alerting motorists that they are approaching a school could be erected.

DC passed his email correspondence with C Dwyer to the local councillors.

MG confirmed that she would be happy to visit school at morning drop off or afternoon pick up times to see the difference as the group agreed that traffic was far worse at pick up times in comparison to morning drop off. Perhaps C Dwyer or B Ramage could also be invited.

4. Update on the Pupil Equity Fund from Y McKenna.

Two handouts were given to parent members of the group: Pupil Equity Funding Programme 2017/18 and a Pupil Equity Funding Report.

YMck recapped for the group what exactly the Pupil Equity Fund is?

Money given to schools based on how many of its pupils qualify for free school meals. The money is used to close the attainment gap and offer meaningful help to those pupils that suffer from a range of inequity due to their background. PEF is aimed at Broad General Education pupils (S1-3).

The guiding principal of PEF is that all pupils irrespective of their background get the best out of Braidhurst.

YMck explained that the Scottish government had asked schools to focus on six priorities:

1. Social and Emotional Wellbeing
2. Healthy Lifestyles e.g.: addressing health inequity
3. Engaging Beyond the School
4. Using Evidence and Data – YMck highlighted that Braidhurst had undertaken a great deal of work to identify the pupil groups who would receive PEF. The school expanded the risk matrix to ensure that they were looking at the complete picture of pupil need rather than limiting their consideration to postcode/SIMD/free school meal information.
5. Early Intervention and Prevention
6. Targeted Approaches to Literacy and Numeracy.

YMck confirmed that a report of every initiative funded by PEF at the school could be sent to parents.

YMck talked through the PEF Report handout summarising that the document listed what the school has done with the PEF money and how the school measured its impact.

YMck highlighted the great work undertaken by the English (Principal Teacher Leigh Paterson) and Maths (Maths teacher in charge of the BGE phase Jennifer Hunter) departments, and the school HUB (Learning Support department), in terms of the organisation and implementation of PEF initiatives. Lots of innovative practice going on.

YMck asserted that departments must bid for money – it is not just given.

So far the school is very pleased with the work that has been carried out so far and are positive about taking it forward.

The group agreed that Braidhurst was using the PEF money well as some other schools were struggling to spend their allocation.

DC raised the issue of holiday hunger i.e.: pupils were going hungry during school holidays and floated the idea that a club could be run during breaks to ensure pupils did not suffer from holiday hunger.

YMck confirmed that the school have already responded to this issue and ran a club for targeted pupils last October half term where pupils participated in physical activities and then cooked a simple lunch. The school also run a homework club after school (organised by Martyn Campbell, Faculty Head of Science and Jayne Jeffrey, Additional Support Needs Assistant) where pupils complete any homework and then make a health snack.

The group asked if the school know whether or not the PEF money will be awarded again?

YMck responded that this was not guaranteed.

RA highlighted that John Swinney (Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills) had announced that morning (30th January 2018) that there will be PEF money available and that once again the allocations will be tied to school meal eligibility.

MG confirmed that the process of budget allocations was now starting at local council level.

CR offered example of how new PEF money could be used – a resilience group involving 24 targeted S1 and S2 pupils.

5. Head Teacher's Report – please see attached document.

6. Financial Report Update from Ruth Watson

At present the group have total funds of: **£2,081.80**.

A bid from the prom committee for £500 has not been deducted as yet but was listed on the financial statement distributed to the group. The group will invited member/s of the prom committee to attend a future meeting to justify their bid.

7. Department Bids

The group approved the following bids:

PE department – bid approved for Table Tennis Table and Table Tennis Nets = £470.00.

Paris Trip – bid approved for Tropical Water Park entry for 45 pupils = £450.00.

Maths department – bid approved for sets of S1/S2 textbooks = £617.00.

8. AOB

CW proposed the idea of having a parent council member as a contact/representative of each year group. The parent council member would be the nominated contact for any pupil/parent questions.

CR liked this idea and suggested that CW/DC attend a pupil council meeting. The school has a Junior Pupil Council for S1-3 and a Senior Pupil Council S4-6.

Next meeting planned for: Tuesday 6th March at 6.30pm in the school library.