

Braidhurst Parents' Group

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 28th August 2018

School Staffroom, 6.30pm

Present: Claire Wright (Chair), David Clark (Vice-Chair), Jackie Thomson, Lesley Burns, Lesleyann Dougan, Moira May, Carolyn Rooney, Ruth Anderson, Ruth Watson (Treasurer), Meghan Gallacher (Scottish Conservative Councillor - Ward 17 Motherwell West), Andy Hamilton (Depute in Charge of PEF), Joanne Kerr (Acting Depute S3-4), Linda McGurk and Kirsten Scott (Clerk).

Apologies: Agnes Magowan (Scottish National Party Councillor Ward 19 – Motherwell South East & Ravenscraig), Annette Valentine (Scottish National Party Councillor - Ward 17 Motherwell West), Paul Kelly (Depute Leader of the Council and Scottish Labour Councillor - Ward 17 Motherwell West), David Young, Laura Neilson, and Lynn Hogg

1. CW officially opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. DC approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

General discussion took place on the closed meeting which occurred on Wednesday 18th July at school involving Claire Wright, David Clark, Ruth Anderson, James McKinstry (Head of Resources), Isabelle Boyd (Assistant Chief Executive, Education, Youth and Communities) and Meghan Gallacher (Scottish Conservative Councillor - Ward 17 Motherwell West).

The meeting had been called at the request of the parents' group to discuss the progress of the school building works from a parental perspective. The group thanks MG for her continued support.

CR also thanked their parents for their support as well.

DC reiterated that the views held on the building works are those of the parents and does not include school staff.

DC will email Frank McInally regarding certain work still to be completed that were previously agreed upon and will also follow up on the issue regarding the replacement of the school blinds.

MG will also pursue this particular issue with the council and Education department.

The group discussed the possibility of applying for grants to pay for extras e.g.: interior front doors.

RA updated the group regarding the status of the ongoing works – the Science/Technical block will be the next section to undergo asbestos removal and new windows / heating to be fitted.

4. Head Teacher's Report

CR opened her report by updating parents on the current school roll – 615 pupils.

The school are currently short on staffing, particularly in the Maths department, however a teacher is on their way, waiting on their PVG to be completed.

The school improvement plan was presented to parents at meeting last term. This document outlines the areas for development / improvement that the school has identified for the coming school year.

CR introduced the working groups that have been appointed to undertake certain strands of the school improvement plan –

Ruth Watson – Teaching and Learning

Joanne Kerr – Rights Respecting School

Andy Hamilton – Pupil Equity Fund

Joanne Kerr gave an update on the work being done for 'Rights Respecting School' which includes the Mental Health Ambassadors, the LGBT+ group and the Mentors in Violence Protection (MVP) group. Please see attached document.

DC asked if the school would invite Breathing Space?

LMcG yes there will be a notice board signposting pupils to various agencies including Breathing Space.

Andy Hamilton updated the group regarding the work being undertaken in the school that has been funded by the Pupil Equity Fund. AH handed out a PEF overview to the group.

The school are currently in the second year of the four year programme.

The programme focuses on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. These priorities are interwoven and are not approached standalone.

The amount of PEF money each school can tap into is linked to the amount of pupils claiming free school meals - £1,200 per pupil.

The group discussed ways in which the school can increase the amount of pupils who qualify for free school meals applying for the entitlement as there is a disparity between the two e.g.: speaking to parents, posters, bring in a speaker or get senior pupils to talk to junior pupils, peer educators etc.

DC asked how many pupils qualify for free school meals and how many are missing?

RA mentioned that pupils can now access their meal entitlement in a different range of ways which has significantly improved uptake.

CR reiterated that it is school policy to include pupils who are not SIMD 1-2 as the school are happy to pay for pupils SIMD 3-10 who would benefit from a certain initiative.

LB asked if pupils are given the opportunity to feedback at the end of initiatives?

L McG highlighted the school's use of the 'Journey of Change' to measure the soft indicators and establish the impact of PEF.

Ruth Watson spoke to the group about the Learning and Teaching committee who are developing a school policy which will outline the skills and practise that is ongoing in each department. This will also include advice on how to give constructive feedback to pupils so that all teachers are following a cohesive practise.

Once completed the policy will act as a bank of information for teachers and will hopefully embed the concept of pupils working with a growth mindset i.e.: an 'I can do' attitude.

The policy will also outline what will happen in each lesson so parents / pupils know what to expect from each department and subject.

This policy will then be shared and promoted to parents and the school community.

CR resumed by giving the group a quick update on the school's recent SQA performance. There is clear progress being made with the National 5 and Higher awards.

DHT Anne Macdonald will shortly be taking an extended leave of absence and to cover this Joanne Kerr will be appointed Acting DHT for S3-4.

CR asked if any members of the group would be happy to volunteer at the upcoming S1 Information Night to serve refreshments. This would also be a good opportunity to recruit new members for the group. CW, DC, KS and LMcG will attend.

5. Financial Report Update from Ruth Watson

At present the group have total funds of: **£3,173.26**.

Still waiting to bank money generated from keys – 42 lockers = £210.00.

The prom committee required an extra £40 on top of the money they had been allocated. This was taken from petty cash.

6. Department Bids

The group approved the following bid:

Leigh Paterson – Head of the English department bid for £190.00 to fund Health and Wellbeing Hub and Dance activities as part of the upcoming Literacy and Health and Wellbeing 'Connections Festival'.

Approval of previous bids received from Music and Science.

CR reminded the group that they had previously spoke about paying for the steam cleaning of the curtains in the theatre. DC to investigate companies that could do this for the school.

7. Constitution

The proposed constitution did not spark any questions or concerns from the parent forum therefore the old constitution will be removed from the parents' area of the school website and the proposed constitution has been ratified as our new one.

8. AOB

CW asked the group if they had received the training dates from Maureen Moore. The next training course is 'Criterion Led Training' which DC, RW and JT are going to attend.

Next meeting planned for: Tuesday 9th October at 6.30pm in the school library.